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MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

(67)

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AS-SA'IQAH LEADER ZUHAYR MUHSIN GRANTS INTERVIEW

LD301650Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 22 May 78 p 4 LD

[Interview granted by Zuhayr Muhsin, secretary general of As-Sa'iqah, to AL-BA'TH correspondent Muhammad Abu 'Azzah in Damascus on 19 May]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the relation between Security Council Resolution 425 and the Cairo agreement? What, if any, is the contradiction between the two and is it General Erskine's duty to decide on such matters?

[Answer] I see no justification for this furor or anger over what General Erskine said. That is how General Erskine understands and sees the Cairo agreement and Resolution 425. But he is not the author of Resolution 425 nor has he the power to interpret it. If he has given a certain interpretation of his own, this is of no significance as long as the parties to Resolution 425 and the Cairo agreement do not agree with General Erskine's views. The United Nations as a whole, beginning with its secretary general and ending with all its establishments and staff, has nothing to do with the Cairo agreement.

In any case, General Erskine is not the only one who adopts such an idea or holds such a view, for there are many Lebanese who believe in the same thing and have expressed such views in statements and articles in the press. Naturally such statements are of no practical value because the Cairo agreement is a formal agreement between the Lebanese State and the PLO for organizing relations between the Palestinians and the state, and not to legitimize the Palestinian presence there, because this presence predated the Cairo agreement. The Cairo agreement came about as a result of the Palestinian presence, and not the other way round. Of course, the Palestinian presence predated the arrival of the UN forces in the south and the arrival of Erskine.

Our understanding of Resolution 425 is that it is a joint resolution **simultaneously** concerning the Palestinians, the Lebanese, Israel, and the United Nations. It is on the basis of this understanding that we determine the task of General Erskine and his forces in Lebanon. Resolution 425 came as a result of Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. It reaffirms rejection of Israeli action and the need for withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon under the supervision of UN forces. Therefore, the UN forces are primarily concerned with insuring such a withdrawal and taking over the territories from the enemy as it withdraws. The UN General Secretariat and the Security Council are called upon to apply political pressure and to take the necessary steps to expedite the withdrawal.

Of course, we do not suppose that the UN forces in southern Lebanon are capable of or charged with the task of achieving withdrawal through the use of arms. This is out of the question as far as the UN forces are concerned. But the general secretary and the Security Council chairman, as spokesman of the countries of the world, are capable of exercising the necessary political pressure to force the enemy to respect the resolution. The enemy authorities must not stop and wait and see what will happen in the Lebanese territories, whether those involved in the recent incursion or those not involved. Also the enemy authorities have no right to interfere in the manner with which the UN forces deal with the other parties--the Palestinian and the Lebanese parties.

Since the UN forces have come in order to carry out tasks related to the international conflict in the area, including the state of war between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Lebanese, then they must not overstep this task by interfering in domestic Lebanese affairs or in Palestinian-Lebanese relations which are not a subject of discussion at the Security Council or at any other international body.

We put it on record here that the UN forces so far have not been able to fulfill the task for which they came. A partial withdrawal has taken place, but this withdrawal has not yet been completed. We also put it on record that the UN forces have generally been slack in the face of the deliberately slow withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the rest of the Lebanese territories and the continued Israeli interference in domestic Lebanese affairs. Any excuses given by Israel or other quarters to justify the slowness of withdrawal are not acceptable. Also it is not acceptable for any official or non-official quarter to try to preoccupy the public with other issues, such as the problem of the Palestinian presence or what they call trying to bring this presence under control, or reorganizing it, before total Israeli withdrawal is completed and before a comprehensive solution is found for the Lebanese problems which would result in a reassertion of the authority, responsibility and prestige of the state and the implementation of all its laws, especially in the capital as a first step at least.

[Question] You have referred to the Tripoli conference which was held from 2 to 5 January 1978. The significant point to be brought up here is in clause nine of the final statement of the conference, which underlines the importance of militant, nationalist Syrian-Palestinian ties. Both Syria and the PLO declared the establishment of a joint front for the confrontation of the Zionist enemy and to thwart any attempts at surrender. Algeria, Libya and the PDRY decided to join the front as a basis for confrontation and steadfastness which other Arab countries can join. This means that the meeting on 22 November 1977 between the Syrian political leadership and the PLO was the step which led to the establishment of the steadfastness and confrontation front, which underlines the importance of maximum coordination in this regard.

We would like you, brother Zuhayr, to throw light on the progress so far in such coordination and on the difficulties, if any, hindering such coordination.

[Answer] With regard to coordination, we must admit that it is still restricted to words and statements made on certain occasions. Coordination is not just the exchange of visits between this or that official. It is daily and programed behavior within a joint, clear and specific plan of action. It is for this reason that Syria always insists that the Palestinian side must specify clearly and in writing to what extent and in what fields it can and wishes to coordinate. This is because Syria on its part approves any maximum cooperation the Palestinian side may wish in this regard. But so far this maximum has not yet been clearly and officially defined by the Palestinian side.

During several meetings with Syrian officials there has been talk about the desire for coordination, and on many occasions official meetings have been held to discuss certain emergency problems or situations, but so far no joint total commitment has been reached in specific fields of action, whether political, military or that of information. In other words, we can say that good relations exist between the PLO and Syria, but these relations so far have not yet reached the level of an alliance or of systematic coordination.

We wish it were possible to raise these relations to the level required as soon as possible to achieve the maximum possible coordination alliance and solidarity between the two powers that are now supposed to be the only front remaining in the confrontation with the enemy.

The realization of this ambition of necessity calls for setting out to achieve internal national unity and developing internal relations in the manner which I have just pointed out. This should be brought about by the achievement within the Palestinian ranks of adequate solidarity, cohesion, understanding, mutual trust and maximum utilization of manpower and material resources in the face of external dangers, and not in confronting one another or in stirring up differences between ourselves.

[Question] The narrow-minded ones, the ones with selfish interests, and those collaborating with imperialism have described the U.S. aircraft deal as being like building new pyramids. They have propagated the idea that this signals the beginning of disengagement between the United States, the leader of imperialism, and Begin's fascist government. They have drawn conclusions to the effect that a settlement is forthcoming. What is your opinion in this?

[Answer] It is clear that there is no U.S. settlement plan that differs from the Israeli plan or ideas. The United States still adopts the basic Israeli ideas about the conditions and concepts of a settlement. Perhaps there are U.S. demands for certain marginal alterations but these are of no value. In its general policy line the United States wants Israel to remain strong and superior and the Arabs to remain weak and disunited and even defeated.

The aircraft deal approved by Congress changes nothing in this situation. Carter and his Defense Secretary Harold Brown have clearly stated their views on this matter, expressing the U.S. desire for Israel to remain superior and showing how this tri-lateral aircraft deal will preserve this superiority for Israel and will secure it for several years to come. The planes that will be given to Egypt, which is supposed to return to the confrontation line if it fails to retrieve its lands, are of absolutely no value at all. Perhaps they have value in parades only because they have long been surpassed in warfare in the Middle East.

The essence of the U.S. policy toward the Palestinian problem is based on refusing to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to determine their future or to national independence, and on adopting the Israeli viewpoint of refusing total withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967.

The United States aims at achieving a settlement over the remains of the Palestinian people and their national rights as well as at the expense of some other Arab territories so that aggression will achieve its expansionist objectives. Its aim is also to drag all the Arabs to the position of surrender and subjugation to the joint U.S.-Israeli hegemony. This is a new stand by the United States; it has always been its traditional stand throughout the eras of all the presidents who came to the White House.

It is natural that the U.S.-Zionist enemy should try to expedite a settlement in the form of a unilateral peace with As-Sadat before the remaining Arab front in the confrontation--the Syrian and Palestinian revolution supported by the Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation--can regain the strategic balance with the enemy, the balance that alone can thwart the enemy's ambitions and dreams of subjugating our nation and encroaching on its rights and dignity.

BAHRAIN

ALGERIAN PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY MEETS RULER

JN271038Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 27 May--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, ruler of Bahrain, today received Algerian presidential envoy 'Abd al-Hamid Mahri on the occasion of his visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of the states in the area. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah, prime minister; and Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Faris al Khalifah, director of administration, finance and consular affairs in the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to GNA following the meeting, the Algerian envoy said that he conveyed a message from Algerian President Houari Boumediene to his highness the ruler of Bahrain dealing with current developments in the Arab east and the Arab Maghreb, and relations between the two countries.

Mahri added that his tour of the Gulf area comes within the framework of consultations with the Arab brothers to inform them of the Algerian viewpoint regarding current Arab issues. He expressed hope that visits and consultations would continue among the Arab states on various levels and using all means in view of the good results of such visits.

The Algerian envoy arrived in Manama from Doha this morning on a 1-day visit to Bahrain.

OMAN

ALGERIAN ENVOY CONCLUDES VISIT TO MUSCAT

JN301022Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] Muscat, 30 May--The Algerian president's envoy, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Mahri, left Muscat this morning following a visit of several days to Oman.

While in Muscat, Al-Mahri conveyed a written message to Sultan Qabus from Algerian President Houari Boumediene dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East and with bilateral relations.

QATAR

PLO'S ZUHAYR MUHSIN ARRIVES IN DOHA

NC302108Y Doha QNA in Arabic 2040 GMT 30 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 30 May--Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the PLO's Military Department and secretary general of the As-Sa'iqah Organization, arrived in Doha from Kuwait this evening for a 2-day visit to the state of Qatar as part of his current tour of some states in the area.

Muhsin said on arrival that his discussions with Qatari officials will deal with current developments in the Arab area, the question of southern Lebanon and the Israeli aggression on the Lebanese and Palestinians there.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID HOLDS TALKS IN PARIS

LD301948Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1325 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Paris--Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said that the Saudi-French talks which took place today dealt with programs of cooperation between the two countries, including **programs** of education, which were discussed during the closed session held by King Khalid and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. He reaffirmed that the recently raised issue of aircraft was not discussed at all. He added that the two sides discussed issues relating to scientific research, particularly solar energy. The minister said that the views of both sides were identical and in full agreement.

This came in a statement made by Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani following the round of talks held by the Saudi and French sides today under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz and His Excellency French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The minister said that topical issues, especially questions of mutual interest, including African problems, were also discussed.

Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said that during the talks the Saudi minister of industry pointed out that opportunities were open to French companies for more cooperation in the field of industry. The minister of industry entirely welcomed the programs of cooperation that already exist between the two countries. The information minister said that during the meeting, the Saudi minister of agriculture discussed the questions of water desalination, current agricultural programs and agricultural research which is being carried out with the aid of specialized French companies.

With regard to the sphere of information, the minister of information pointed out that programs relating to the development of Saudi television, and their continuation in accordance with the agreement concluded between the kingdom and France were also discussed.

Referring to economic issues, the information minister pointed out that the Saudi side explained to the French side that exaggerations in prices were the result of economic problems to which the kingdom's government has been able to find suitable solutions. He pointed out that these problems revolve around the fact that the inflation rate used to be 40 percent and has come down to 11 percent; the problem of bottlenecks at Saudi ports has also been solved.

In conclusion, the information minister said that a joint communique will be issued at the end of the visit defining the points and issues on which agreement is reached during the talks.

UAE

INDIAN PETROLEUM MINISTER ARRIVES IN DUBAI

JN270945Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Dubayy, 27 May--Indian Petroleum Minister Hemwati Mandan Bahuguna arrived here this morning on a 1-day visit to the UAE. The Indian minister will attend the opening of the new barrel-manufacturing plant in Dubayy to which the Indian Government is contributing. He was received at the airport by UAE Finance and Industry Minister Hamdan ibn Rashid al-Maktum.

Meets Dubai Ruler

JN271618Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1550 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Dubayy, 27 May--His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Sai'd al-Maktum, UAE vice president and ruler of Dubai, received Indian Petroleum Minister Hemwati Nandan Bahugana here this morning.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid, finance and industry minister, and Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir, UAE ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Holds Press Conference

JN271620Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1557 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Dubayy, 27 May--Hemwati Nandan Bahugana, Indian minister of petroleum, has expressed to His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Sai'd al-Maktum, UAE vice president and ruler of Dubai, his country's readiness to participate in several industrial and agricultural projects in the UAE, particularly in the spheres of electricity and heavy and light industries.

At a press conference he held today, the Indian minister stated that during his meeting today with His Highness Shaykh Rashid and Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid, finance and industry minister, he explained to them the Indian capabilities in these fields. He added that His Highness Shaykh Rashid showed an understanding of the issues of cooperation between the two countries. He said that an Indian delegation will arrive in the UAE at the end of next month for talks on possibilities of industrial cooperation between the two countries. A delegation of experts from the UAE will also be visiting India at a later date.

He further said that talks are underway for the establishment of a large fertilizer plant in Abu Dhabi and added that all the requisites for such an establishment are available in Abu Dhabi, where there exists a gas surplus in addition to the other necessary requirements.

Leaves for London

JN281044Y Abu Dhabi Emirates News Agency in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 28 May--Indian Petroleum Minister H.N. Bahugana left the country for London this morning following a 1-day visit to the UAE, during which he attended the inauguration of the barrel-manufacturing plant in Dubayy to which the Indian government is contributing.

ARMY COMMANDER MEETS PAKISTANI NAVY COMMANDER

JN270948Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0910 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 May--Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid, commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces, met here today with Ahmad Zayid, commander of the Pakistani Navy. The meeting was attended by Pakistani Ambassador to the UAE Anwar al-Haq. The Pakistani commander arrived in Abu Dhabi today aboard the destroyer (Payor) on a few days visit to the UAE.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ADDRESSES PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

JN271545Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 27 May--Hamad Abu Shihab, deputy speaker of the UAE National Federal Assembly, opened here today the meetings of the preparatory committees of the Arab parliamentary federation, which will last for 2 days.

At the beginning of the session, Abu Shihab delivered a speech in which he said that the Arab nation, while passing through one of the most delicate stages in the history of Arab struggle, is trying to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in order to attain its glorious aims, foremost of which is the restoration of usurped rights from the enemy. He called on the parliamentarians to exert their efforts and call for a prompt meeting of the Arab leaders in order to abolish the impediments which obstruct Arab unity and solidarity.

He added: While meeting here within the framework of the economic and cultural preparatory committees of the Arab parliamentary federation to set forth your views of the work of the Arab parliamentary federation and to plan for its future Arab and international activity, you must continue the discussion of Arab economic integration and the role of parliamentarians in bolstering the unified Arab culture.

FUNDS MARKED FOR MILITARY INDUSTRIES ORGANIZATION

JN291720Y Abu Dhabi Emirates News Agency in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 May--The UAE has earmarked 284 million dirhams of the general budget for the Arab Military Industries Organization. This amount was allocated in the state budget as part of the UAE's investments in Arab and international projects, which amount to 1.16 billion dirhams this year.

At a meeting in Abu Dhabi in February, the Arab Military Industries Organization approved an Arab industrialization plan which includes the establishment of a joint company for electronic industries with headquarters in Saudi Arabia.

In addition to the UAE, the Arab Military Industries Organization includes Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt.

PETROLEUM MINISTER LEAVES FOR GENEVA SYMPOSIUM

JN281040Y Abu Dhabi Emirates News Agency in Arabic 1010 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 May--Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, left Abu Dhabi for Geneva today to participate in the meetings of the Arab-European businessmen's symposium which will begin there today and last until Wednesday.

ENA has learned that his excellency the minister of petroleum and natural resources will deliver the opening speech at the symposium, in which a number of Arab and European personalities will participate.

UAE BALANCE OF TRADE REPORTED

JN261127Y Abu Dhabi Emirates News Agency in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 May--UAE imports have registered a steady increase since 1975. UAE imports in 1975 amounted to 10.9 billion dirhams. In 1976, imports amounted to 13.6 billion dirhams, an increase of 24.8 percent over the 1975 figures.

UAE imports in 1977 registered a 27.9 percent increase over the 1976 figures. Imports for 1977 amounted to 17.4 billion dirhams.

These figures are contained in the report of the Ministry of Economy and Trade on the UAE's foreign trade for 1977.

The report says that UAE oil exports have also registered a steady increase. UAE oil exports in 1975 amounted to 26.8 billion dirhams. In 1976, oil exports amounted to 33.093 billion dirhams, showing an increase of 21.6 percent. In 1977, oil exports amounted to 35.74 billion dirhams, showing an 8 percent increase over the 1976 figures.

The economy and trade ministry report says nonpetroleum exports and re-exportation have also shown a steady annual increase. In 1975, such exports amounted to 603 million dirhams. In 1976, these exports showed a 99.7-percent increase over the 1975 figures, and in 1977 a 22.3-percent increase over the 1976 figures.

The report explains that the prices of imported manufactured goods show a steady increase on a long-term basis. Furthermore, the instability in the world prices of crude oil, fluctuation in the prices of foreign currencies and the increase in world inflation, which reached 25 percent in 1975, are bound to have an adverse effect on the economies of the OPEC countries. Consequently, this hampers projected development programs in the OPEC countries, especially those countries whose economies depend solely on oil revenues, and also affects their balance of payments.

The report says that the oil revenues are becoming increasingly eroded and that there is a steady reduction in the monetary assets of these countries.

YAR

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ANNOUNCES NEW CABINET

JN301317Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Presidential Decree No 5 of 1978]

[Text] The president of the republic, taking cognizance of the permanent constitution; the constitutional proclamation of 22 October 1975; the constitutional proclamation of 6 February 1978 on the formation of the constituent People's Assembly, which was amended by the constitutional proclamation of 17 April 1978; the constitutional proclamation of 22 April 1978 on enforcing the decision of the constituent People's Assembly on defining the form of the state's presidency, its duties and term of office; and in accordance with the offer made by the brother prime minister, decrees:

Article 1. The cabinet shall be formed as follows:

Prime Minister	'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance	Eng Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd
Minister of Awqaf and Guidance	Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Mansur
Minister of Supply and Trade	Salih al-Jamali
Minister of Health	Dr Ahmad Muhammad 'Abd al-Malik al-Asbahi
Minister of Education	Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih
Minister of Agriculture	'Ali 'Abdallah al-Matari
Minister of Communications and Transport	Eng Ahmad Muhammad al-'Unsi
Minister of Information and Culture	Ahmad Salih ar-Ra'ini
Minister of Economy	Dr Ahmad al-Hamadani
Minister of State and Chairman of Oil and Mineral Resources Department	Eng Ahmad Qasim Barakat
Minister of Foreign Affairs	'Abdallah 'Abd al-Majid al-Asnaj
Minister of Interior	Muhsin al-Yusufi
Minister of Development and Chairman of the Central Planning Board	Muhammad Salim Basindwa
Minister of Public Works and Municipalities	Eng 'Abdallah al-Kurshumi
Minister of Justice	'Ali as-Samman
Minister of Social Affairs, Labor and Youth	'Abd as-Salam Muqbil

Article 2. This decree shall come into force as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the republican palace in San'a' on 30 May 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI MAKES INSPECTION TOUR

JN261413Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, flew to Kamaran island this morning on an inspection tour.

The brother president of the republic visited the island's desalination plant, where he was received by the director of the plant and the engineers, who explained to him the progress of work at the plant and the production capacity. The brother president then visited the island's electricity plant. Afterward, the brother president called at the district office on the island.

Our radio and television correspondent, who is accompanying the president on this trip, has learned that the brother president has issued the necessary instructions to the appropriate authorities to expedite the renovation of the island's hospital and the supply of the necessary medicines to the citizens there. He also requested the immediate purchase and installation of another generator.

The brother president donated 100,000 rials to the cooperative fund for the development of Kamaran and 30,000 rials to sports and cultural activities on the island.

The brother president returned to Al-Hudaydah later in the day. He was accompanied on this visit by Lt Col ('Ali Stayta), chief of staff; Lt Col Muhsin al-Yusufi, minister of the interior; Ahmad ar-Ra'ayni, acting minister of information; and Lt Col 'Abd ar-Rahman az-Zayn, commander of Al-Hudayyah district.

MENA REPORTS AS-SADAT'S 30 MAY PRESS CONFERENCE

LD301752Y Cairo MENA in English 1430 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Text of speech and press conference given by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat at 30 May meeting with foreign journalists at Al-Qanatir al-Khayriah]

[Text] Cairo, 30 May MENA--Following is the full text of President as-Sadat's speech and his answers to the questions put by foreign pressmen:

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a very happy occasion for me to meet with you. I must admit that I have been late because I wanted to meet with you since a very long time but as you have observed here, the dimensions of work really, and the volume was so enormous to the extent that lots of what I tried to do in the field of the meetings I (?cannot) fulfill. But I found it very important to meet with you, especially after the plebiscite here and after I met with Egyptian press and television and broadcast. They asked you to join us and I wanted you to attend and to see that we have nothing to hide. But whatever I am speaking to my media here you are always present and for sure you must have followed the other meetings either in the parliament on the 14th of May and after with the Egyptian press and my meeting with the intelligentsia, the professors of Alexandria University. I think you have followed these meetings. Let me tell you that I am not happy with what I have read in your papers. I did not read your messages before it [as received] was sent, because as you know, since four years and a half we have no censorship here but I received what most of you have written and was published in your newspapers and in London radio.

I must tell you quite frankly that I was not happy at all. Why? Because you are supposed to be the link between us and the people there, either in Europe or in Great Britain or in anywhere and we work here in the daylight as I told you before, when I met with the press.

I asked that you attend the meeting with the intelligentsia, the meeting with Alexandria University, which you must have followed because it was on the TV and radio. I wanted to tell you I was not happy after what you wrote to your newspapers exactly as I was not happy on the eve of 73. If you remember on the eve of the year 73 there had been a great campaign against Egypt and unfortunately, I must say that what was written in the outside world [words indistinct] provided with some Egyptian circles but you know at the time I declared this and said Egyptians, especially men of the press, should not give a false picture to the foreign correspondents here, because in the first 3 months of 73 any one who was following all over the world, and you can return to it, would have been convinced that Egypt is on the verge of collapse. I remember 3 articles written by the British correspondent in the GUARDIAN and after that he wrote another three articles in the New York TIMES giving the same meaning that Egypt is about to collapse.

In the same time I received what I called some Egyptians or what I called "the bubbles that are on the surface." They are not important, but because they have a loud voice or they have some friendships with the foreign correspondents so they tried to picture the situation in Egypt in their favour and even if it is against their country, against the truth. Well, immediately before my initiative last November you may find the same thing, Egypt is about to collapse--the inflation, the economic crisis, 18 and 19 of January and its significance.

I am really very sorry that this was not the truth that was told to you and you have built your stories upon it, because at the time also it was said that Egypt was waiting for a military coup at any moment, and then immediately I visited Jerusalem and I wonder if any who does not feel stable in his country or waiting for a military coup or about to collapse, how could any one have taken such a drastic measure like this I had taken in breaking the vicious circle that has taken place for thirty years between us and the Israelis, even breaking all the old ideas drastically. I wonder if any leader could have been in a country about to collapse at any moment and waiting for a military coup could have taken such a decision.

Before I took my decision in 72, 7,800 Soviet experts were sent out of the country in a week and it was fulfilled. I took the decision of the October war against every estimation all over the world. All the computers all over the world said no, but I took the decision to end also the Soviet treaty. I took the decision for the open door policy, after more than 20 years of what I have described (?as) the iron curtain that we have already built around us.

The plebiscite was also interpreted in the same language and the same misinterpretation that has been given to you when I read those articles. You have followed [word indistinct] in the 3 meetings before and I do not want to repeat myself or to repeat what I have already mentioned why I did this, but to tell you again in a very few words really I was this. [as received] The country was not about to collapse and will never collapse and remember I told the National Security Council five days before the October war that our economy was below zero and it was published. You have read it and you know; the whole world knows of this and we did not collapse. We started on the contrary the October war in spite of our very grave economic situation at that time, which I described as below zero; and we shall not collapse. The country was not in collapse and is not waiting from moment to moment a military coup.

What has happened in this plebiscite was that I wanted the whole world to hear what is the decision of the Egyptian people in three main issues, that I consider were exploiting the democracy--our democracy--and putting rigs on our way to democracy. [as received] The first issue is the Marxists that have formed the left wing of our political parties. You know that immediately after the October war I put a paper to my people and we had discussions and we agreed upon three platforms. To start with for a democratic system based on multiparty system we started with three platforms immediately after the elections of '76, and on the day that I gave my speech in parliament those three wings acted like three parties and each party has got its name and started practising our democracy. We, well, in this practice found that there [word indistinct] there are those who are trying to exploit democracy and the climate of freedom that has prevailed here to try and reach their end. For that reason I wanted the Egyptian people to say their word.

If I am against democracy, it would not have made this referendum. We have a martial law here--maybe you know or maybe you do not know--and I never used this martial law either before the October war or during the October war or after the October war. I never used the climate of democracy here and you are living here and you must be travelling from time to time and visiting the countries around here in the area, and I do not want to compare between what is here and there.

But all the people know the details about this--you are free to go anywhere in this country. It is not like Moscow. In Moscow it is fifteen kilometers--only from Moscow--and after that you are captured, but here you have the full freedom to meet with anyone all over the country. Here is a free country, a free country [words indistinct] or puts any censorship on your telephone or on your messages or so on. All for that it was very queer for me when I read some articles analyzing the referendum as if I am not feeling stable in the country here, or as if I am taking extra measures or trying to take extra measures or overplaying the whole thing.

Well, I was really astonished especially from London radio. If radio London wants to create sensation it is o.k. for it, but I should like to tell them in radio London that we have the best relations with Great Britain on all levels and I am very proud with the support that I received from time to time from the people of Great Britain after my initiative. Really I am very proud of it. Why should you transfer false facts? It is said, for instance, that there is a suspicion about the result of the plebiscite and, well, anyone in my place would say: Well let them say whatever they say. But as I told you I am very keen to keep the good relations between the two peoples in Great Britain and Egypt here, and in the same time to give the truth. I mean the sentiments of my people, the true situation of my people for the public opinion there in Great Britain for that I was really sorry because you remember the October war, you remember the military bulletin--it was denied by radio London for two days and by all radios all over the world because it was not estimated at all that we could fight for two or three hours--not more than that. As I told you before and after that they have mended this and they told everything but when I hear that radio London said that the attendance of the referendum was not like we have declared the result there is some suspicion. Well, really, I feel very sorry because as I told you I am very keen that the public opinion in Great Britain knows the facts here.

In our military bulletins I tell that for the first time. More that fifty or sixty Israeli tanks was not mentioned in this bulletins because I gave strict orders not to declare except the facts, even and when they are not sure, they must be very cautious. Even then they go below what was reported to the [word indistinct]. Since my work here and since I took power in September 1970 you know this about me. We always mean what we say, and I always say what I mean, when I found that for more than twenty nine years everyone is scared from mentioning the peace agreement or living with Israel side-by-side as good neighbours then I was convinced that this was in the interests of my people. I made my initiative and it was a great risk but I was rewarded from the whole world and from my people mainly here in Egypt. I was really very happy when five millions out of the populations of Cairo came out to hail me. And if the contrary would have happened, that my people would not have received me favorably or were against it be sure--as I told the professors of the Alexandria University--I would have left my place at once.

I am of the same idea now. Whenever my people refuse anything that I do and that I am convinced that it is in the benefit of them, well they have the decision and I shall leave my place in the same moment.

So really I was very sorry to hear that we have eleven million voters, ten million voters. One million did not vote and it was stated. Ten million voted out of eleven--what is suspicious in this and the result--yes we have the computers--everything was done, everything was supervised by the judges in the country.

In the plebiscite, the judges supervised the whole plebiscite and in my village, Mit Abu al-Kawm, the judge that supervised the plebiscite there told me a very interesting story. He told me I was really very astonished, Mr President, because a half-paralysed man asked to be carried to give his vote and insisted and I myself was beside him when he gave his vote on the paper and I held him because he was half-paralysed. This is the judge who supervised the plebiscite of my village in al-Mudiriyyat Minufiyah. And I wanted to tell you this because I wanted you to be a good link between us and your people, because we want to have the best relations with your people all over the world for the sake of peace and for the sake of a new order in this world. Another article came in the TIMES. I do not refuse at all to have anyone criticising me, because it was quite natural in democracy. In democracy there are those who criticise always and this is a fact in democracy. And this is a fact in democracy and for five years and a half now since I got rid of the censorship in my press everything is told in the newspapers. For instance, this pyramid hill question that you have heard about. All the time there have been articles in my newspapers accusing the government of so and so, meetings here and there. I never opposed this and I shall never oppose it. But what I oppose is any opportunist or any prejudiced element of those who want to exploit democracy for their own ends, and if it is not done to their liking they would accuse and tell you stories and you publish those stories and tell your people there some stories completely different from what is taking place here. Those bubbles which are on the surface--they do not at all represent Egypt. Believe me, you have heard it and you can follow my discussion with the professors of Alexandria University. It was a discussion of the intelligensia. We have discussed every single issue in it. I am not against this and I shall continue to do this. Those opportunists are the cause that I asked the Egyptian people to say their word to them--either in the left in the Marxist wing--and I must tell you quite frankly and in all candour, I criticized myself last summer and I am criticizing myself now. I should not have allowed Marxists to control the left wing in our democracy and I shall continue to behave like this.

I want Egyptian leftists but not leftists that have been brought up by the Soviet Union. This is one of the issues that I asked my people to give their word on them.

Number two: Those of the old political parties that was the regime that preceded the 23rd of July Revolution 1952--I mean since 26 years. Well if anyone says now that the French Revolution can be ignored in the history of the whole world, well the 23rd of July Revolution will be ignored also, but never neither the French Revolution nor the 23rd of July Revolution in Egypt will be ignored at all in history. Both gave the wide base of the population their full rights. The dynamics of history never go back at all and I wanted my people to tell those elements I did not take any measures against them. On the contrary, all of them who were under sequestration received their money. They received more than money. I mean they enjoyed their dignity and I intend that every Egyptian on the Egyptian soil will always enjoy his dignity.

This is the second issue that I wanted my people to give their say on because whenever one of those whom we purged twenty-six years ago because of corruption should not return again after twenty-six years, and when the constitutional legitimacy took the place of evolutionary legitimacy could come and try to exploit democracy for his own ends. And after twenty-six years, this is what I wanted to tell my people to give their say on.
[as received]

Number Three: All of you know that after the July revolution there have been those centres of power, and the regime before I took power--as you know--was a totalitarian one, a dictatorship. Well, we criticized ourselves. The [word indistinct] of July revolution criticized itself, and we have corrected all the faults that have taken place after the 23rd of July through the revolution of the 15th of May. And everyone, as I told you, is enjoying now his full right, his democracy, his freedom, his dignity. You are living among us. If anyone feels anything against this, he can tell us. Everyone is enjoying this, but those who have touched the human dignity of the individual should not take place or try to exploit democracy to return again to their way. [as received]

These are the three issues I asked my people to give their opinion before the whole world upon them.

So far that you may understand why I told you that I felt very sorry and very disappointed when I read what has been written because it was wrong in the basis and in the facts. Really, I am (?awfully) sorry I don't want to give a long speech or so; I think if we can start our dialogue and answer all the questions that may need an answer I think this will be much more profitable for you and for the whole situation now, and before I end I must tell you this; we Egyptians are very hospitable, and we welcome you on our land, but we want you only to send the true picture from here. We don't want you to be on our side at all against anyone. No, please try to be objective and send whatever happens here because this is a free country here, as I told you, and you have the full right to contact anyone. And don't take your analyses from those opportunist bubbles on the surface who may have had at sometime a loud voice. But now something new is taking place. This is democracy, and democracy from the widest door in the history of our country. And I am ready to answer any question and start a dialogue.

Correspondent of New York TIMES:

Mr President you have said in recent statements, that there will be no curbs on freedom of expression here, there will be no bans on travelling abroad, there will be no return of sequestrations, the opening of no [as received] detention camps, and you have told us today about the referendum, but even before the referendum has been formally (taken) into law, we have been seen five journalists and writers prohibited from going abroad, for their cases are being investigated. We have seen sixty journalists according to the socialist prosecutor office, who are being investigated, two issues of AL-AHALI which--two consecutive issues of the leftist newspaper of AL-AHALI--which have been critical of the referendum, have been confiscated, or, as you know that the prosecutor has detained twentyfour persons and said that they are communist inspired, I want, if you can, clarify the confusion. [words indistinct] It seems to many of us that it is inconsistent with your promise that democracy will not be affected, that democracy is moving forward. Could you please explain this for us?

President: For sure, as an answer to this, about the five journalists that you mentioned I want to tell you this. First of all, I must tell you something about our permanent constitution. I have started what is called--after the totalitarian system that we had before the seventies--I have started what I have (?called) the institution system. In this institution system, we have three institutions, the executive, the legislative and the juridical. And in the last paper of the constitution my people agree upon the fourth institution and this is press. We have above all those our permanent constitution that has been drafted and agreed upon in 1971, since seven years now. Let me tell you this. I never made any action against this constitution, and you may read this constitution.

You will find immediately that it is much more progressive than any democratic constitution. For instance I give only one example. The president cannot disband the parliament. In Great Britain the queen can disband the Parliament, after one hour whenever the prime minister asks for this.

But the president of Egypt by the permanent constitution shall never disband the parliament, except after a plebiscite. And this means that there must be some issues of difference, and we then return to the people. After what has taken place in the Fourth Republic and which all of us all over the world were pitying France, because of what was happening there in the Fourth Republic, you will find our constitution if it is not more than the French constitution, if it is not less than it, even the freedom, so no number. [sentence as received] No measures against the constitution, or against any institutions of these institutions has been taken or will be taken. I am intending to do this. But let me tell you this, about the newspaper men that you mentioned, would you agree that some one make. of himself Lord Haw Haw--do you remember Lord Haw Haw in the Second World War? He was British, I mean, in Germany, and he was directing propaganda against his own country, against England, in the German radio. Well, Great Britain, they sentenced him to death. But the five newspapermen you mentioned, are enjoying the dignity, the security, everything that is enjoyed by every Egyptian here.

And they are abusing their country, sending articles. And when we say that the attorney general in this investigates, and put the full facts before my people and before the parliament, you say that this is against democracy or against my promises. No, (?this) what is taken now and will be taken in the future is trying to teach those elements some elementary principles in the moral conduct--for their country, not for me. You remember one of them is criticising me for four years until this moment, and I never took any action against him. And even his criticism reached the extent of impertinence and challenges, and I never dreamt of taking any measures against him. And I shall not take any measure against anyone except by the constitution, by the law, that my people have agreed to. And mark this, it is abusing Egypt that I am against, but lots are abusing me and I give no heed to this. Abusing Egypt, no. You may remember that the rejection camp that has been formed as you know, when they made their decision in Tripoli under the leadership of Al-Qadhdhafi and abused Egypt, I severed the relations with them. I did not sever the relations before that when they attacked me vehemently in the first and second disengagement agreements.

But when they abused Egypt, I severed the relations with them. I do not, if anyone agrees that his country abused by some citizens who enjoy their full freedom, they meet with you, they try to put analysis before you, they go out and return, they travel, they do everything and more. More than that, they send to any radio stations attacking Egypt to abuse their country. I think my people have the full authority to know about this, and also should be punished. It is not at all democracy to give anyone the right to abuse his own country while he is enjoying full security and freedom. As they wrote themselves, in the British newspapers that they are enjoying full, full dignity in the country. Well they should not abuse their country.

About the left wing newspaper AL-AHALI, I have nothing to say except this, read the fourteenth edition before we put this AL-AHALI newspaper before the judge. First of all, I must tell you this. We did not confiscate or take any measure--the judge confiscated it. That means democracy.

I have the full right, I can do it myself by the martial law, but I shall never use the martial law. I shall use it in one case I mean, in one case only, and this is against those traitors who try to exploit my people through raising the prices of the essential demands for my people. This is the only issue that I shall be using martial law, but I never used it.

This newspaper you mention was really a series of filth and lies and the judge agreed that it should be confiscated. I should recommend you to read the 14th edition before we put them before the judge. And until this moment we did not close it and we have the right to close it, especially after the referendum. But I am not going to close it. I am going always to put it before the judge because I promised democracy. But those who try to exploit democracy and say that 18 and 19 January 77, were a people's uprising instead of a robbers' uprising, well, this should be put before my people. But be sure of one thing, and you know this, after you leave here you can meet with them and discuss with them. They are free and they have their dignity, no measures against them, no one is going after them; you can see this with your eyes. There is a great difference between democracy and exploiting democracy for everyone's end.

Question from Wilton Winn, of TIME magazine:

Mr President, I am sure that you are aware that your critics have enjoyed very much recently claiming that your peace initiative has failed. I wonder if you can tell us your estimate at this moment where the peace initiative stands and if you can project a little into the future as to what you think will be the next steps.

President: I must tell you something before I answer what our friend Winn has asked. I read your article in TIME. I do not agree with you (?about) the stalemate of the initiative. I found that I must take any measure or something. No, I am never a man of emotions, and it is time you know me. I am not a man of emotions. I shall say this, Winn:

If the initiative proved to be a complete failure, is this a cause that I start doing haphazardly? No, it will not be the end of the world, even if the initiative proves at the end to be a complete failure. It appears you did not understand me. I shall say yes, I am optimistic, and I shall continue, because I shall say, well, this is not the end of the world. Let us try another way. Let us try another language, another system or so, because as long as I enjoy the confidence of my people, I shall be always working towards the goal.

For I want you to know that I never link any difficulties in the foreign situation, I never mix this with internal policies, because in the interior--all of you are living with us here, you know how I enjoy the confidence of the majority of my people, not only the majority, I can say the complete confidence of my people, only except those opportunists that I told you about, who say that if democracy did not give them what they want, let them abuse the whole country. I never link this with that at all.

The second part of the question, Winn, is where are we now in the initiative? I must tell you this, the momentum of the peace process now is slackening. It has not stopped. Approximately daily we have an exchange of views, approximately daily. The American ambassador has left last week with a complete survey on my side to be put before President Carter.

The Israelis' position is still in stagnation, like it was before. But let me tell you this, whenever there are new elements from the Israeli side, Egypt, as I said before on the first of May, Egypt will be open-hearted and open-minded to receive these new elements and start direct negotiations. Not before that.

If there are new elements and for sure they can give new elements, for sure there will be new elements from our side.

This is the true situation. It is a stalemate to a certain extent. But let me tell you, inform you, the peace process has not frozen yet. It is going on but in very slow motion, like some of the movies which want to show some action so it is in slow motion. It did not freeze and we are ready, open-hearted, open-minded, for any new elements from the Israeli side and there will be reciprocation.

Question from Italian press agency (ANSA):

Mr. President, I have a very particular problem. One of the five journalists who were not allowed to travel is Mr Muhammad Sayid Ahmad and was awarded an Italian literary prize, and he has to receive it on the third of June. Now, as he is stopped from travelling, I wonder how I should phrase the news item to say that he can not travel because he is subject to a political enquiry.

President: I don't think I understand what you want.

Correspondent: I don't think that the Italian readers will understand that in a democratic rule somebody can be stopped from travelling for political matters.

Answer: No. In a very democratic country that respects itself and its regime any one who is wanted to be tried, or there is an investigation that should take place with him, every democratic country prevents the citizen until the investigation is ended. Let us say this. More than that, this precise man that you are asking me about has abused his country in Italy. I do not know if you have read this or not. I shall not take any measure against anyone who abuses me personally, but abuse Egypt, no, no. He has abused his country in Italy, in the same place that you are asking for him to go. And after all you can go to the attorney-general and put this question before him.

Italian journalist: Mr. President, may I be allowed another question? You said that the foreign press was misinformed in 1973 about the real situation in Egypt and then again misinformed before your peace initiative in 1977. Now for the third time some elements have been misinforming us. May I ask you sir, what third surprise you are preparing for us?

President: There are two surprises. (laughter). The first is this meeting and putting all the facts open and in daylight before the whole world. Number two I hope on the next twenty-third of July, there will be a surprise. Number three, I shall not take any measure against you or against any others. (laughter).

Question: Mr. President, you have constantly stated that the crux of the question is the future of the Palestinian Arab brothers. The whole world has clearly understood and admired your sincere desire for peace. Do you think, Mr. President, that the same understanding can be accorded to the national and legitimate rights for your Palestinian brothers?

President: Well, in the first place, let me tell you this. It is only understanding of the whole world public opinion towards our Arab cause as a cause. But I am very proud to tell you that after my initiative a new and complete understanding from the whole world public opinion has been shown towards the Palestinian question as the core and crux of the whole problem. I stated this, and may I state it again before you, without solving the Palestinian question we cannot establish permanent peace in the area, and we should not decide the future of the Palestinians behind their backs. They should join in determining their future. This is the Egyptian position.

Question: Vice-President Husni Mubarak was in Jordan after your declaration of the possibility, as a kind of interim solution, to accept the return of Gaza Strip to Egyptian authority and the West Bank to Jordanian authority. What was the response of King Husayn to this idea?

President: Well, I should prefer the question to be asked to King Husayn...I don't want to embarrass him, and you know when I made by initiative, really, I did not contact any Arab leader, because I said this is my responsibility and I do not want to embarrass anybody. But King Husayn has understood the spirit behind this initiative, and let me hope that in the proper moment he will declare his position on this. But I must say this before you as representatives of the foreign press: Whenever King Husayn agrees to this, it will not be against the Rabat strategy, because in the Rabat strategy and in item number one, we say that all the Arab lands occupied after 67 should be returned or should be evacuated by the Israelis. So it is quite natural, and I made this initiative as one alternative from the alternatives we are trying always to put so that we can achieve peace.

Question by Muhammad Ahmad Mustafa, correspondent of SAWT AL-ARABI and Saudi 'UKAZ. In 1973, all the Arab countries were in despair of any war, and you made your surprise with the October war and you succeeded. And also after thirty years of Palestinian conflict, there was a big wall. You crushed this wall and you went to Jerusalem. Can we expect another surprise from you, Mr President, to make again the Arab family--as you are the head of the family, and I think it is easier for you to go or to start this step, more than to go to Israel.

Answer: Well, let me tell you this in all candour. Arab solidarity and the talk about it that it is shattered or so is really very exaggerated. Why, they formed what they called a rejection camp. The rejection camp consists of Libya, Iraq, Syria, Algeria and South Yemen. And let's drop South Yemen from our discussions. Of the other four, Libya has never been in the Arab solidarity, either before the October war or during the October war or after the October war. On the contrary, on the second day, namely on the seventh of October, Al-Qadhdhafi asked to have the wavelength of "the Voice of the Arabs" because he was going to give a speech and we agreed. And he, on the second day of the October war, attacked the idea of the battle and prophesied our failure.

And so this is Libya. More than that, he did not make any commitment either before the October or during the October or after October. He has never taken his share in any Arab commitment that is now given by the confrontation states. Number three, when the Arabs put on the oil embargo, Al-Qadhdhafi was sending his oil through Italy to everywhere. So this is the position of number one in the rejection camp.

It has never been of any influence either before or during or after the October war, and until this moment he has never taken any share in the Arab commitments that have been taken upon (?themselves) by the gulf states to help the confrontation states. Iraq is the same, and more than that, Iraq was more precise than Al-Qadhdhafi. Al-Qadhdhafi said that he was with the embargo but he was sending his oil through Italy. Iraq (?said) officially we do not want to join in this embargo. They declared it, and they sent their oil officially before the whole world. And it was courageous for them. One respects them because they declared their position instead of doing like Al-Qadhdhafi, declaring that he was with the embargo but secretly sending the oil.

Number three, Syria. All of you must have heard what I have suffered from them and from the Soviet Union. Two days before [as received] the October war, they asked the Soviets for the ceasefire. After forty-eight hours only, without my knowledge, when the Soviet ambassador came and told me I refused to believe him. But unfortunately it was true. They sent three times to the Soviet Union for the ceasefire and because they have lost the battle in the second day. Brezhnev was really in a very furious state, to the extent that he contacted President Tito to try and put pressure on me to accept the ceasefire, but I did not accept the ceasefire except after seventeen days and after America joined the battle with Israel, and I know my limits. I shall not fight America. I shall not fight any big power.

So the fourth one, Algeria, really this is the only country that I am deeply sorry for the attitude of Boumediene because he has done a great gesture during the October war, going secretly to the Soviet Union and buying arms for us without telling us, but at last he went to Tripoli and Al-Qadhdhafi made him sign whatever he wants.

So these are the four countries of the rejection camp. They do not contribute in any Arab commitment. They did not contribute in this oil embargo; they abused and are abusing until now. They have no influence, no weight. For I tell you that the talk about the shattered Arab solidarity is so exaggerated, we are in the same position that (?we were) before, always. And those who have formed the rejection camp (?could) not stand for more than two months, and after that it was shattered. Even the rejection camp itself was shattered and Al-Qadhdhafi now is abusing Algeria and Syria. Iraq is abusing Syria and Al-Qadhdhafi. This is shattered. What is shattered really is the rejectionist camp, [not] Arab solidarity. And because of our way as Arabs we are full of compliments. So when they do not declare their positions this is not because they are against but because we have such a complementary way, in our ways, I mean. But as you asked me I have informed President Numayri and King Khalid that we have no objection against any Arab summit. We have no objection against its time or place. Number one. Number two, I have told also Numayri and King Khalid we are ready to restore our relations with whoever of the four countries that I told you, with whoever likes to restore it, on one condition only--that we shall not tolerate abusing Egypt. Not me, they can abuse me as they like, but abusing Egypt, no. We have no conditions.

Question: Mr. President, do you think that we'll have an Arab summit very soon?

President: I don't know. [Words indistinct] My own opinion, as I told you, my position, I told President Numayri and King Khalid about it, that we have no objection. But if (?you ask) for my own opinion, I should like it to take place [word indistinct] after two months [word indistinct] the stalemate and the stagnation in which the situation of the Arab-Israeli conflict now is suffering, because I think in those two months we shall reach a result. Either the peace process gains momentum again or it proves to be a failure.

Question: Mr. President, it is six months now since your initiative and more than three months since you broke off the peace talks with Israel. If I am not mistaken there are Israeli officials or liaison officers in Egypt who in fact have never left. I don't know what their numbers are. Could you tell us, please, what exactly this delegation is doing here or has been doing here?

President: Well, we have, yes, a certain [Israeli]. He is not a (?liaison) officer because there is really nothing in particular that he is doing here. But you remember that when I called back my foreign minister from Jerusalem, and when President Carter contacted me here in this same place where you are sitting, [words indistinct] night when President Carter contacted me, I gave him a concession and said, well, I shall continue to join in the Military Committee and not the Political Committee. I gave this concession to President Carter. Well, we reached the point that I was visited by Weizman, you remember, after (?his return) from the States here also in this same place. Now this representative who is here really does nothing, and a message has been sent from General al-Jamasi to General Weizman in this regard. And I should not like to disclose anything about it and leave it to the two generals, but he is doing nothing here and the Military Committee is not functioning.

Question: Mr. President, you insist and you claim repeatedly that you are a very optimistic man, a very patient man, in terms of your peace initiative, and you do have a reputation for being a very candid man. I wonder if you would be kind enough to confide to us perhaps some of the more difficult moments or particularly bleak moments, and I am sure you must have had at least one in these past difficult six months. Could you relate to us a particularly low point?

President: About what?

Question: About the initiative and the outcome so far of the initiative?

President: Well, you may not believe me. It is a very happy outcome. The agreement from the side of the (?Senate) upon the arms deal, really, it is a very happy result, a very happy omen also for me, really. Because, you may remember, that before President Ford in '75 started his trip to meet with me in Salzburg in Austria 76 senators out of 100 signed a letter to him which meant that he has not the full power to do anything with me, on the demand of Israel.

Now after the agreement of the Senate--55 against 54--it is a very happy omen for me. And let me tell you this, and tell the American public opinion and the Senate and the Congress and President Carter, they will never regret this.

Question: Mr. President, do you feel that it is now up to the United States, to President Carter, to make some major new move now to get the peace talks going again?

Answer: As I told you I am in constant contact with President Carter. The last time I visited the States I stated my position before the American people and asked President Carter, the Senate, the Congress to take their share as full partners in the dispute between us and Israel. I am waiting for this moment that the United States takes its full share as a full partner so that we can give a new momentum to the peace process.

Question: So, so far then, you say the United States is not a full partner?

President: Not yet, until this moment, not yet.

Question: If nothing has happened six months from now, will your peace initiative still be alive?

President: Let me tell you in all frankness, my peace initiative will never die. It is now in the heart of every peace-loving man or woman. You can't imagine what I receive daily from the United States, from Great Britain, from all the Western European countries--everywhere, up to Australia. It is not any more my initiative. It is the initiative of every man and woman, those who love peace in the whole world. For that I am happy. But you may say this, what will happen after six months if the peace process doesn't gain momentum again. As I told you the initiative will never die. This is one of the deeds that will never die historically, at all. Because it lasts and still is sincere, very sincere. As an answer to you, I tell you I am not worrying myself about the next six months. I shall be waiting like the British say, until I reach the bridge, and then I (?shall cross it).

Question: I gather that your government is due soon to start negotiations with the gulf organisation for the development of Egypt on further financial aid. Can you give any comments on how these are likely to go or whether in fact they are going to put any conditions on aid?

President: Well, for the time being the prime minister is planning to start a trip to Saudi Arabia and with the minister of economy also. They are (?planning) everything for the trip and until they do it I can't tell you any news about it.

Question: So you can't give any indication as to whether in fact you are going to put forward a really radical programme of economic and social reform and that this might be tied in with some aid programme?

President: We are already trying our best for this economic reform. But you must confess with me that we should take into consideration the political side of the whole thing. It is not only the economic side but the political side of it. We are doing our best to straighten out our course. You may have heard from the United States about the comment that has been made by the president of the World Bank, McNamara, by David Rockefeller. They are very favourable statements, but until the prime minister makes his visit I can't tell you any more.

Question: Can you tell us when this is going to be?

President: I think it will be shortly.

Question: Mr. President, if I may just ask for clarification on...

President: You have already taken the platform. Give a chance to your colleagues and when we end I am ready to hear you.

Question by Christopher Walter: I wonder if I can ask you to comment on a report in the British Sunday MIRROR that the killers of David Holden may be at the moment imprisoned in Egypt. This report appeared on Sunday in the Sunday MIRROR.

President: Let me tell you before I answer you. I am not happy with what you have written in your article. I read it, quite frankly, and I advise you seriously, whenever you want to make a story I am ready to meet you and all the facts will be put (?before you), believe me. Either from me or from the prime minister or the minister of information or the vice-president.

Be sure of this, so that, as I told you, we can give the true picture to our friends in Great Britain, whom we are really very enthusiastic to have their support in every way. It is not only in this Arab-Israeli dispute but we are rebuilding our country and we need great understanding and help from your people.

You asked about Holden. I can't really give you a final answer about this. But let us hope that from those who are now under arrest new facts can be found. You know we have found that they have relations with those who killed the Italian prime minister, Aldo Moro. Well, let us hope that it will be proved that there are among them those who have committed those crimes.

Question: Mr. President, we know that you have a solid military alliance with the Sudan. The escalated fighting in Eritrea indicates that Sudan might become embroiled. What happens then to Egypt?

As-Sadat: It is a matter of life or death for Egypt, and if anything happens against Sudan, (?we will) join the first movement with the Sudanese.

Question: The minister of irrigation of Egypt, Mr. Abu al-'Ata, has said in Khartoum that the Ethiopians, with the help of the Russians, are building a dam in Lake Tana, which is about the source of the Blue Nile. Can you comment on that?

As-Sadat: As you know, we depend upon the Nile, a hundred per cent of our life. As Herodotus said at one time, that Egypt is the gift of the Nile. We don't have rains. We depend totally upon the Nile. So, if anyone at any moment thinks of depriving us of our rights or trying to create any situation, we shall never hesitate, we shall never hesitate, because it is a matter of death or life for us.

Question: Will you go to war for that?

As-Sadat: Yes, if you don't go to war for a matter of life or death and the life of your people's water, your people and your land, for what reason do you go to war?

Question: Mr President, in view of the fact that the PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat, continues to criticise both you and your peace initiative, do you advocate that neither Mr. 'Arafat or the PLO must be a part of a Palestinian delegation to peace talks?

As-Sadat: Let me tell you this. In those (?same) chairs and in that corner, I had Yasir 'Arafat many times. And he has attacked vehemently the first disengagement agreement, the second disengagement agreement, and after my initiative and is continuing now. In the first place, he is inspired by Syria, and the Soviet Union. I know this and he knows that I know. But let me tell you this, Egypt has a historic responsibility, whether 'Arafat attacks us or not, a historic responsibility toward the cause of the Palestinians, and we shall never waiver from it, whether 'Arafat attacks or not. Be sure of this. But I have already noted now, answering a question, saying: We shouldn't determine the future of the Palestinians in the absence of the Palestinians.

Question: Mr. President, the Palestinians (?are) specifically [word indistinct] about the PLO?

As-Sadat: And the PLO (?are the Palestinians). Are they or not?

Question: So you include....

As-Sadat: Are they or not?

Question: That is what I'm asking.

As-Sadat: [words indistinct]

Question: What do you think of the relations between Turkey and Egypt? And what do you think about the Cyprus problem?

As-Sadat: About our relations with our brothers in Turkey, we are brother relations, you know. At one time, I mentioned and it is in my blood that in the 23rd of July Revolution we were influenced by Ataturk himself, as a hero. He was not a hero in Turkey. He was a hero all over the Moslem world, especially here in the Arab world. We want to enjoy the best relations with Turkey and we shall do our best towards this goal, as we are doing. Regarding the Cyprus problem, there have been really differences in this respect between Egypt and Turkey. We supported Makarios, because we thought the man was really working towards a non-aligned country. Maybe you know that we have suffered in the aggression of 56 from using Cyprus as a base against Egypt. How the situation with Kyprianou and now what has taken place in Larnaca airport, the situation, real [words indistinct] discussion, in the Security Council President Kyprianou of the....Now...because I have withdrawn our recognition for him as a president of all Cyprus, he is a president of the Greek side. President Kyprianou of the Greek side will be meeting my foreign minister in New York, and as I told you, the whole thing is under discussion, and we shall be waiting for a report from our foreign minister after he meets the president of the Greek side of Cyprus.

Question: Then Cypriots always expect your help for the independence and freedom of their own people. What is your comment?

As-Sadat: We have always been true, and as I said at one time, and it may have annoyed our friends in Turkey, because they are our friends and also we consider them as our brothers, because in Islam we are all brothers. Really, but....

Question: The whole world [words indistinct] brother as far as we are friends.

As-Sadat: All of us. So we have supported Makarios. Makarios was [made] of some very pure stuff. Kyprianou, I can't understand him, really. When I got there to assure his authority, then he fires on my soldiers from the back and not, I mean, from front--from the back. Well, really, I'm really very injured by this.

Question: When you think about it with more calm, will you find that the Cypriot people need your help, anyway?

As-Sadat: I may seize this opportunity to assure our deep understanding and I must tell you in all candour I'm a great friend of the prime minister of Greece, Karamanlis. And let me tell you something that may annoy our brothers in Turkey, when I severed the relations; this is a secret. I asked Karamanlis and the Greek Government to look after our interests there. But he was so wise; he is a dear friend. He understood the gesture.

Question: The new Israeli president, Mr. Navan, made yesterday an urgent appeal to you to start the negotiations process again, and to be ready for negotiations again. Do you have any signs from the Israeli side, and what is your answer to the Israeli president?

As-Sadat: The answer is that we are ready, open-hearted, open-minded for the establishment of peace and good neighbourhood, and the security of Israel. But we are not ready to give up any part of our land. This is my answer. Well, there is an indication from the side of Israel that the Israeli situation has changed, and as I said before, we shall be ready when they, the Israeli situation changes. When a new element appears we shall be ready, open-hearted, open-minded, to conduct direct efforts to establish peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm awfully sorry, because at some time I may have appeared to be vehement or so, this is my way. It is nothing against you at all. All I wanted, and to reiterate now, is you are living here in a free country and I'm not boasting. No country in this area enjoys what the Egyptian individual enjoys: freedom, dignity, no measures [as received], no concentration camps, [words indistinct] and will continue, a permanent constitution, a multi-party system, but we shall continue our democracy, we shall continue our multi-party system. We shall continue to have our democratic system based on the constitutional institutions, but at the same time, let me tell you this, we shall have to [do] whatever to remove obstacles which come in our way or attempts to exploit democracy against democracy. Thank you very much.

AS-SADAT CONGRATULATES JORDAN; ARAB UNITY DISCUSSED

JN271028Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 27 May--President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has sent Nasir al-Ansari, secretary of the president's office, to the Jordanian Embassy in Cairo to present congratulations on Jordan's Independence and Army days.

In an interview over the radio on the occasion of Independence and Army days, Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Dhuqan al-Hindawi spoke about the achievements of Jordan in various fields despite scant resources. He also spoke about Jordan's pan-Arab role before and after independence.

Ambassador al-Hindawi said: We believe that the Arabs cannot ignore Arab solidarity if they want proper and healthy solutions for their domestic and foreign problems. As for the external problems, there is the problem of Palestine and the enemy occupying the dearest part of our sanctities and lands. Jordan believes that Arab cooperation in various fields is a must. As for domestic matters, we believe that Arab integration in all fields is the cornerstone if Arab countries are to proceed toward building and construction. Jordan believes in this cooperation in the widest possible sense because it will achieve the prosperity for which our people aspire.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT RECEIVES TOP OFFICIALS

NC271855Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 May 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and ASU Central Committee First Secretary Dr Mustafa Khalil. He also received Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi in the presence of Vice President Husni Mubarak.

KAMIL SPELLS OUT EGYPT'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY

NC301752Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 May 78 NC

[Text] New York, 30 May--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that the Egyptian proposals which Egypt has recently asked the U.S. Government to submit to the Israeli officials aim at reducing the complications of solving the Palestinian question within the Arab framework.

The foreign minister said that the return of the West Bank to Jordanian administration and the return of the Gaza sector to Egyptian administration will promote a solution of the Palestinian question within this Arab framework based on the rights of the Palestinian people.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, who heads Egypt's delegation to the UN General Assembly's meetings on disarmament, stressed that the Egyptian stand is a principled one and hence Egypt still seeks an agreement on the declaration of principles as a first step toward a solution to the problem and a settlement which would restore the occupied Arab territories and solve the Palestinian issue on the basis of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The foreign minister said that at their meeting yesterday, he discussed with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim the Middle East problem and the obstacles which Israel has placed in the path of the peace agreement by providing its own interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242, adhering to its policy on the settlements, insisting on rejecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and by its illegal exploitation of Egyptian oil. He added that he discussed with Waldheim the latest developments in southern Lebanon and the need to demand that Israel withdraw as soon as possible.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil yesterday met with Lazar Mojsov, the Yugoslav permanent delegate to the United Nations, and president of the UN General Assembly's session on disarmament. The Egyptian foreign minister said that at his meeting with the president of the General Assembly's session, he expressed his hope that conditions will be created which would contribute to the realization of disarmament and would be a commitment to legitimacy in solving international disputes. He also stressed Egypt's desire to make the Middle East a nuclear-free area.

The foreign minister is expected to meet today with Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou and with the Chinese foreign minister.

On Thursday, the foreign minister will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to discuss the results of the U.S. Government's latest contacts with the Israeli officials and the question of Israel's illegitimate exploitation of Egyptian oil.

KAMIL DISCUSSES VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

NC271347Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 27 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 May--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has said that his recent visit to Saudi Arabia was part of the continuous consultations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He said that he and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal discussed in detail all aspects of the Arab and international positions.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, the foreign minister said that Egypt and Saudi Arabia agree on everything that will promote the Arab cause, liberate the territories which have suffered Israeli aggression and enable the Palestinian people to regain their national rights. Kamil said that the two countries will continue to work together to achieve the Arab nation's national strategic goals and strengthen Arab ranks in a righteous and just manner devoid of any bargaining, vituperations or the narrow vision of personal whims.

Kamil said that he gave Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz a letter from President as-Sadat to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressing his greetings, friendship and esteem, and that Amir Fahd also gave him a letter of friendship and esteem for his brother President as-Sadat.

AL-AHRAM says that an Egyptian spokesman has said that the Egyptian-Saudi sides reviewed in detail the situation in the world in general and in the Arab world and the Middle East in particular. They also reviewed the efforts being made to bring about a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East question--a solution based on a complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and a recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination.

The Egyptian spokesman said that the two sides noted that they agree completely on anything that is beneficial to both countries and to the Arab nation [word indistinct]. They expressed the conviction that with good will the efforts of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to achieve Arab solidarity will achieve positive results.

The spokesman said that Egypt has not put forward any conditions for the achievement of Arab solidarity, nor does it have any reservations concerning the convocation of an Arab summit conference anywhere, at any time. He said that Egypt hopes the national interests of all Arabs will triumph over the narrow partisan attitudes that can lead to bargainings and from which only the enemies of the Arab nation will benefit.

In his statement the Egyptian spokesman said that during the meetings the Egyptian delegation felt that the Saudi officials all fully appreciated the extensive and positive effects of Egypt's efforts since President as-Sadat's initiative, whether concerning international and U.S. public opinion or responsible circles of the U.S. administration, Congress and Western governments.

The source added that the inability of the Zionist pressure groups to impose Israel's will on the United States for the first time regarding the aircraft deal is an important turning point. It indicates that the initiative and its effects have drawn a dividing line between the era when the U.S. arena was an Israeli monopoly and that in which the United States has turned to a policy more balanced and more responsible to the requirements of right and justice.

DR GHALI MEETS BELGIAN, ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADORS

NC2919-5Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 May 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today met with Belgian Ambassador in Cairo Rene Panis and discussed with him the latest situation in Zaire in the wake of the recent events in the town of Kolwezi in Shaba Province. The two also reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East crisis and Europe's role vis-a-vis the efforts now being made to find a comprehensive and just solution to this crisis.

Dr Ghali also received today Ethiopian Ambassador in Cairo Kidane-Mariam Betru. During the meeting they reviewed the situation in the Horn of Africa. They also discussed matters relating to the forthcoming 15th meeting of the African summit conference, which is scheduled to be held in Khartoum in the second half of July.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE DISCUSSES SOCIAL PEACE BILL

NC302054Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 May 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly Legislative Committee held a meeting this evening under the chairmanship of Hafiz Badawi during which it began debating a proposed bill submitted by the members of the People's Assembly to safeguard the internal front and social peace. After the debate, the committee approved the proposed bill in principle and then began discussing it article by article.

The proposed bill includes a ban on any call whose aim is to oppose the principles on which the 23 July Revolution is based or to advocate ideologies opposing the democratic socialist system of the 15 May 1971 Revolution, which is stipulated in the permanent constitution and which is based on the alliance of the working people, social peace, national unity, faith in the religious and spiritual values, safeguarding the socialist gains of the workers and peasants and respecting the sovereignty of law.

LEFTIST LEADER LOSES PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY

NC301931Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 30 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 May--At its meeting tonight under the chairmanship of Hafiz Badawi, the People's Assembly Legislative Committee decided to lift the parliamentary immunity of Member Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, the leader of the National Unionist Grouping Party. This was done at the request of the justice minister in order that the judiciary may carry out an investigation regarding the report, which Minister of Culture and Information 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi submitted, on what has been published in the AL-AHALI paper, and which the minister has regarded as slanderous.

Member Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, who attended the committee's meeting, agreed to the lifting of the immunity so as to investigate this incident but not any other incidents.

THREE DEPUTIES RESIGN FROM NEW AL-WAFD PARTY

NC302050Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2024 GMT 30 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 May--Three deputies of the New Al-Wafd Party have resigned from the party and stressed their support for the referendum out of respect for the opinion of the people and their will. They also affirmed that there will be no going back or a revival of the prerevolution era.

The three deputies who resigned come from the Al-Fayyum Governorate. They are Muhammad Nabil Abu as-Sa'ud, 'Isa as-Sayyid Mansur and Ahmad Abu Zayd Tantawi.

INA: LEFTISTS DENOUNCE ARREST OF DEPUTY AL-HARIRI

JN271156Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 27 May--The National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party has denounced the arbitrary measures taken by the Egyptian authorities against Progressive Deputy Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri.

The party distributed a statement appealing to the democratic forces to condemn the arrest of Deputy al-Hariri, who has been in prison for 12 days now on charges of leading a demonstration opposed to the regime in Alexandria.

The statement says that Al-Hariri is a People's Assembly member who enjoys immunity and that he has not committed any crime or violated any law. Nevertheless, he was arrested. For the first time in Egypt, a People's Assembly member is arrested during the elections for campaigning in favor of a colleague in his party.

The public prosecutor has turned down a request submitted by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, rapporteur of the party and People's Assembly member, calling for the release of Al-Hariri. The public prosecutor replied that People's Assembly Member al-Hariri has been attacking the regime and has distributed pamphlets attacking the policy of the state.

AL-AKHBAR ATTACKS REPRESSION IN IRAQ

NC300805Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 30 May 78 NC

[Press review]

[Text] The Cairo newspapers today refer to statements made by Prime Minister and leader of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt Mamduh Salim, announcing the reorganization of the party through direct election of the party leaderships on all levels. The papers say that Mamduh Salim has declared that direct elections will include the lowest levels--the basic units--as well as the higher levels--the political bureau and even the party leadership. Meanwhile, the prime minister said that a similar evaluation will take place on the level of the executive authority and that this comprehensive evaluation will include all the leaders of national action.

The Cairo papers also refer to recent reports pointing to a rift within the ruling Iraqi front after the Iraqi authorities had executed 14 members of the Iraqi Communist Party. The papers say that the Iraqi ruling party has addressed a stern warning to all the political forces against making any attempt to seize power or engaging in any non-Ba'thist political activities within the Iraqi armed forces. This comes amid signs of a rift within the Iraqi ruling front, which includes the Communist Party, the Kurdish Democratic Party, independent national elements and the Ba'th Party.

Commenting on this subject, Musa Sabri writes in the newspaper AL-AKHBAR: The authorities of the bloody dictatorial government in Iraq have not denied news agencies' reports that 14 members of the Iraqi Communist Party have been executed. What has emerged from Baghdad confirms that these reports are true. The newspaper of the bloody ruling party in Iraq has published an article threatening the execution of any communist who engages in any hostile political activities in Iraq. Earlier, the same paper accused the Iraqi communists of attacking Egypt not out of conviction but on orders from Moscow. All this is happening in Iraq while Moscow Radio is taking these attacks silently. It does not defend the agents of the Soviet Union in Iraq. It does not object to the death sentences passed after summary secret trials. It does not deny that its agents receive their orders to attack Egypt from Moscow.

We do not blame Moscow Radio because it is concentrating its daily attacks on Egypt. It pretends to weep over democracy in Egypt. It broadcasts statements by Egyptian communists. When Baghdad levels its attacks, it is incapable of saying anything because any attack on Egypt would then become an object of ridicule. What does it say about the Iraqi guillotines and decapitations while it is raving each day because Egyptian justice has impounded the communist newspaper?

The impounding by justice of an Egyptian communist newspaper is the most atrocious crime, according to Moscow Radio; but it should keep quiet about the gallows which have been set up for the Iraqi communists in Baghdad. Woe to the Egyptian communists who are residing in Iraq and who have allowed themselves to attack their country, their land and their soil. They can do nothing but remain silent while they witness their Iraqi communist colleagues hanging from the gallows and the executioner's sword cutting off heads.

NEWSPAPERS COMMENT ON VARIETY OF ISSUES

NC280730Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 May--Today's editions of the Cairo newspapers highlight the news of the termination of the controversial Al-Ahram Plateau project. The papers say that President Anwar as-Sadat has instructed Prime Minister Mamluk Salim to halt work on the project immediately and to terminate it completely so as to preserve Egypt's heritage and to emphasize the need that national feelings must be respected in economic projects.

The newspapers show interest in the news that Muhammad Hassanayn Haykal and four other journalists have been referred to the socialist prosecutor and that investigations will be carried out on the grounds that they sent news reports and articles abroad that defame Egypt and threaten the safety of the domestic front.

The newspapers give prominence to the news that President as-Sadat will meet this morning with the 20-member Alexandria University council under University President Dr 'Ali Rida al-Hunaydi. President as-Sadat will also meet with the 15-member board of directors of the university faculty.

AL-AHRAM says that at this meeting President as-Sadat will speak about a number of important matters pertaining to democracy and the adjustments in its practice. His excellency will also answer questions by the representatives of the university faculty.

Among the important news on which the Cairo newspapers focus also is the report that the People's Assembly Legislative Committee will discuss this evening the draft laws on safeguarding national unity and social justice as laid down by the six referendum principles.

DAMASCUS: AL-AKHBAR WARNS BBC ON ATTACKING AS-SADAT

JN301943Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Cairo--The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR today accused the BBC correspondent in Egypt of joining in the campaign against As-Sadat. The paper warned the correspondent that he should respect the freedom of the press, as it claimed, as a condition of staying in Egypt.

V. 31 May 78

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E 1

FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI MEETS COUNTERPARTS IN NEW YORK

USSR's Gromyko

JN310740Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] New York, 31 May--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here last night with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko.

INA's New York correspondent reported that the two ministers discussed bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest. During the 1-hour meeting, the two ministers agreed to cooperate at the special UN General Assembly session on disarmament.

The correspondent said that Dr Hammadi gave Gromyko the Iraqi draft resolution which was approved by the ministerial conference of nonaligned countries. This resolution deals with the escalation of armament to the Zionist enemy--armament which now menaces international peace and security. The resolution also deals with the cooperation between the Zionist entity and the racist regime in South Africa.

Yugoslavia's Vrhovec

JN302102Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] United Nations, 30 May--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met in New York today with Yugoslav Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Josip Vrhovec and discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them. The two ministers also reviewed issues relating to the nonaligned foreign ministers meetings to be held in Belgrade in July. They agreed to maintain their contacts in order to increase the potential of the nonaligned movement.

ATH-THAWRAH CRITICIZES PLO DECISION IN S. LEBANON

JN301542Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 30 May--A commentary in the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH describes as serious the announcement by certain PLO leaders to stop military operations in and remove armed elements from southern Lebanon.

The paper says that implementing this decision will mean submitting to Zionist terms and that sooner or later the Palestinian resistance will lose the reason for its existence in southern Lebanon and nearby areas.

The commentary says that while the nationalist and Palestinian existence seems to be the main loser under this decision, the Zionist-rightist alliance--as well as the Syrian regime and the Lebanese Government--are the great beneficiaries of this decision and its consequences.

The commentary explains that the decision comes as a triumph for the plot which the Syrian regime was unable to carry out through its armed forces, which practiced terror, oppression, and all forms of pressure and blackmail to weaken and disarm the Palestinian resistance.

IRAQI SOURCE COMMENTS ON LEBANESE ENTRY VISAS

JN310825Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 May--A responsible Iraqi source has stated that Iraq will not adopt the principle of reciprocity with Lebanon regarding entry visas. The Lebanese Government began implementing a special measure on 10 April by which it requires any Arab citizen wishing to enter Lebanon to obtain a visa.

The Iraqi source added that Iraq will not follow the decision of the Lebanese Government and that Iraq will continue to open its heart to all Arab brothers. He added that entry to Iraq for all Arab citizens, including Lebanese, will continue to be without visa.

TRANSPORT MINISTER MEETS WITH SOVIETS IN MOSCOW

JN291540Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 29 May--Iraqi Transport Minister Dr Mukarram Talabani began new contacts today with a number of Soviet officials to develop cooperation between the two countries in the fields of river transport and railways. He held two meetings with Semen Skachkov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and with (Bakhrov), acting minister of river transport.

The talks dealt with the possibility of training Iraqi cadres in the field of river transport, and of sending Soviet experts to work to clear the Tigris River in Iraq for transport purposes.

The Iraqi minister arrived in Moscow several days ago at the head of a delegation for these discussions.

Talks Continue

JN301832Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1624 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 30 May--Transport Minister Dr Mukarram at-Talabani met in Moscow today with Mr (Marzhinov), head of the commission on foreign economic questions of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers. The meeting dealt with means to promote cooperation in the fields of land and sea transport. Earlier, the Iraqi minister met with Soviet Transport Construction Minister Sosnov and discussed with him possible Soviet participation in implementing a number of railway projects in Iraq.

TRADE MINISTER SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN STOCKHOLM

JN301620Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1422 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] Stockholm, 30 May--Iraq and Sweden signed an agreement here today for economic and technical cooperation. The agreement was signed for Iraq by Hasan 'Ali, trade minister and Revolution Command Council member, and for Sweden by Minister of Commerce Staffan Linder.

The agreement stipulates the promotion of trade by exchanging various industrial and agricultural commodities; developing forests; promoting educational and social services; transferring technology; and exchanging expertise in training and rehabilitation. The agreement further stipulates the establishment of an Iraqi-Swedish joint committee to draft the plan for cooperation. The new agreement will replace the agreement concluded between the two countries in 1962.

Mr 'Ali extended an official invitation to Mr Linder to visit Iraq during the Baghdad International Fair next October.

SPANISH MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN270825Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 May 78 p 3 JN

[Text] Amman, 26 May--A Spanish military delegation led by the president of the Council of the Joint Military Chiefs of Staff arrived here today on a visit of several days at the invitation of the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, who, along with the Spanish ambassador in Jordan and other Spanish Embassy officials, met the delegation at the airport tonight. During the visit, the delegation will meet a number of officials and will tour military institutions and army positions.

Received by Badran

JN271159Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Mudar Badran today discussed the possibility of strengthening Jordanian-Spanish military cooperation with Lt Gen Felipe Galarza Sanchez, president of the Council of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Spanish Army. The meeting was attended by Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt Gen Zayd ibn Shakir and the military delegation accompanying Lieutenant General Sanchez.

Received by Husayn

JN271735Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Lt Gen Felipe Galarza Sanchez, president of the Council of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Spanish Army, and the members of the accompanying delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. The meeting was attended by the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

His Majesty King Husayn bestowed the Jordanian Independence Order, First Class upon Lieutenant General Sanchez.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN MEETS WITH AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR

JN281842Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Vienna yesterday.

Prince Hasan and Dr Kreisky exchanged views on the situation in the area. They discussed bilateral relations and the possibility of economic cooperation.

In a statement to Vienna Radio after the meeting, Prince Hasan said that they exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East. He expressed the hope that progress would be made toward establishing peace. He stressed that the Arab leaders and people are looking forward to having a just and permanent peace.

This morning Prince Hasan met with the Swiss minister of foreign affairs and technical cooperation who is now in Austria. The Swiss minister reviewed the joint plan submitted by certain European countries to the UN General Assembly extraordinary session. This plan provides for limiting strategic arms, disarmament and solving political issues by peaceful means. Prince Hasan stressed Jordan's support for this plan which will serve world peace.

Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat left Vienna this afternoon for Geneva.

KING HUSAYN, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VISIT ARMY UNITS

JN301922Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, accompanied by the prime minister, the speaker and members of the National Consultative Council and the chief of the royal court, today visited a number of army units and frontline positions. During the visit they were briefed on the methods of training and saw models of vehicles, weapons and machines used in the armed forces. They were received by the commander in chief of the armed forces and the chief of staff.

This morning, the commander in chief received the speaker and members of the National Consultative Council in the presence of the prime minister and defense minister and the chief of the royal court. The commander in chief briefed them on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

AL-AKHBAR SAYS CARTER APPEASING ISRAEL 'IN INSTALLMENTS'

JN270843Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 May 78 p 1 JN

[Editorial: "No Peace at Anybody's Expense"]

[Text] When a just and equitable peace is achieved between any two disputant sides, this peace is a durable peace, as we have learned from historic experience. Furthermore, peace should be in the interest of all sides, as we have also learned from long historic experience.

President Carter's statement yesterday that he will not accept peace in the Middle East at Israel's expense is a new link in the chain of the American appeasement which the Carter administration is announcing in installments. This appeasement actually began much earlier than the conclusion of the planes deal to the Middle East. It began precisely when Israel and American Zionism began to feel that Carter, in his official position as President of the United States taking care of its interests, is not the same Carter who sought to obtain the Jewish vote during the campaign for the presidency.

Any peace in the area should drop the balance of military power existing in the area from its calculations because this balance might be changed and tipped from one side to another if the Arabs act with national awareness and responsibility toward the challenges facing them. However, the point which should be taken into consideration before anything else is that this peace must be a just peace capable of eliminating the injustice and the bitterness felt by those who have suffered from wars, defeats and injustice.

Any settlement not based on justice and the future protection of a genuine and durable peace in the area will provide no more than a brief respite during which preparations will be made for another round of fighting complicating the question further, increasing the pain in the area and again turning it into a bombshell which can explode the peace of the whole world.

These are the facts which should be understood by all those who are trying to keep the status quo by using twisted words to describe it and by all those who view the current Arab situation as an opportunity to impose solutions which are unacceptable to the Arab people.

BUTRUS COMMENTS ON ANDREW YOUNG'S STATEMENTS

NC291921Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] The minister of defense, foreign and expatriates affairs, Fu'ad Butrus, today again explained Lebanon's stand on UN Resolution 425. He was commenting on the published statements of Ambassador Young, the U.S. representative in the United Nations. Answering a question, Minister Butrus told the radio reporter: [begin recording]

We did not wait for someone to ask us to seek clarifications from the U.S. State Department concerning Ambassador Young's statements. When I summoned the U.S. charge d'affaires on Friday, I asked him about this subject in detail. I am waiting for a reply which would include a verbatim text of Ambassador Young's statements and the circumstances under which he made them, as well as when he made them. The Lebanese Government will adopt the appropriate stand in light of these statements and when it receives confirmation of their veracity.

If the reports we read in some newspapers concerning these statements are correct, the least I can say about these statements is that they are not true regarding what they attribute to the Lebanese authorities, and that they are blatantly in contradiction to the facts.

It is enough to go back to the stands of the Lebanese Government proceeding from the complaint it submitted to the Security Council, to the statements made by the president of the republic, the prime minister and the foreign minister during various cabinet meetings, in newspaper interviews, in instructions to Lebanese representatives abroad, or in discussions held with foreign ambassadors accredited to Lebanon and with the representative of the UN secretary general in the area, General Siilasvuo and his aides, in order to prove that the Lebanese Government's stand has constantly been firm, frank and devoid of ambiguities.

This stand calls for the speedy implementation of UN Resolution 425 in all clauses. As far as the first clause dealing with the Israeli withdrawal is concerned, the Lebanese Government has been striving to obtain a timetable of and schedule for the withdrawal. This is in addition to the third clause dealing with the restoration of the Lebanese authority in the south in relation to all parties. [as heard] This is all I have to say today. Perhaps I will take another stand after receiving the information I have requested. [end recording]

AL-HUSS MEETS WITH U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

NC301854Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 May 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met this afternoon at his home in Ad-Dawha with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Lebanon, George Lane, and reviewed with him the developments in the south.

This meeting comes within the series of meetings which the prime minister is holding to further the implementation of the two UN Security Council resolutions and to speed up the Israeli withdrawal.

IRANIAN ENVOY CONFERS WITH BUTRUS ON SOUTH

LD292032Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 29 May 78 LD

[Text] Mr Mansur Qadir, the shahanshah's ambassador to Lebanon, today met with Fu'ad Butrus, the Lebanese foreign and defense minister, and conferred with him on the situation in the southern part of that country. According to our representative in Beirut, following this meeting the shahanshah's ambassador to Lebanon told the representative of the national Iranian radio and television organization in Beirut that since the shahanshah has a particular concern for the condition of the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon, the imperial Iranian Government attaches importance to tranquillity in that region. For this reason, Iran was the first country to send humanitarian assistance for the southern Lebanese refugees, and Iranian forces were the first to be dispatched from the Golan Heights to southern Lebanon to serve within the framework of the UN peacekeeping force in the area.

The shahanshah's ambassador to Lebanon added that during his meeting with Fu'ad Butrus, matters relating to the situation in southern Lebanon in the light of recent accords between the parties concerned were discussed.

VOICE OF LEBANON: SOUTH UNDER ISRAELI SHELLING

NC301931Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 30 May 78 NC

[Text] The areas of An-Nabatiyah, Arnun, (Kfar Salbit), Kafr Rumman and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr were subjected to Israeli artillery and rocket shelling this evening. Three persons were killed, one of whom was from the Al Yusuf family, and five others were wounded, including Husayn as-Surayji, Husayn Haydr and Muhammad Yusuf. Fires broke out and some buildings were damaged. Flares were fired over Al-'Izziyah area.

Further Report

NC310645Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 31 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] There have been reports from the south on artillery exchanges yesterday between the Qal'at ash-Shaqif area and the border area, where the Israeli forces are still deployed. About 110 shells fell on An-Nabatiyah and nearby areas. Nine people were killed and about 15 people were wounded. Fires broke out in the [word indistinct] woods and destroyed some crops in 'Arnun.

INA Report

JN310811Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 31 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 31 May--The Zionist enemy at dawn today resumed shelling the town of An-Nabatiyah and the adjoining villages. Dozens of shells fell in the town, which had been subjected to barbaric shelling a few hours earlier.

The INA correspondent in the south has reported that human losses in the town and suburbs now total 30 killed or wounded as a result of the shelling this morning. He added that a state of emergency has been declared in the hospitals in the south, particularly those in Sidon, to which most of the wounded were taken.

V. 31 May 78

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LEBANON

The correspondent pointed out that the new Zionist aggression is the fiercest one the enemy forces have undertaken since the deployment of UN forces in southern Lebanon following the Zionist invasion in March.

Arrivals from the south have reported that intensive Zionist military movements were seen during the night in the occupied Marj 'Uyun area.

The arrivals added that the roar of military vehicles and carriers was heard all last night between Marj 'Uyun and Bint Jubayl, and that the enemy, who had announced his intention to withdraw his troops on 13 June, is now reinforcing his positions in the occupied area.

LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT

JN302045Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 30 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 30 May--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has announced that the enemy's hinting at withdrawal from southern Lebanon does not mean that the issue of occupation has ended. The movement recalled the conditions which "Israel" is placing as a basis for its withdrawal.

A statement issued today by the Central Political Council of the Nationalist Movement pointed out that the Zionist enemy continues to cling to positions along the border strip with occupied Palestine and persists in leaving the bridges open through southern Lebanon. The statement added that in addition to these conditions, there are other basic conditions aimed at liquidating the Palestinian presence as a whole and tipping the internal balance in favor of a sectarian and factional domination, which the enemy regards as the last guarantee for safeguarding his interests.

Referring to the escalating rightist campaign against the Palestinian presence, the statement affirmed that this escalation exposes the rightist front's persistence in pushing the country into the maelstrom of internal conflict in the shadow of the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon. The statement noted that calling on the present army to assume responsibility in the south aims at imposing this army, in its current sectarian structure, as a legitimate army so as to guarantee factional hegemony over all Lebanon.

The council reiterated its call to give first priority to the Zionist occupation and the struggle to bring about a total and unconditional Zionist withdrawal. It also called for regulating Lebanese-Palestinian relations on the basis of existing agreements, since these are the suitable framework to safeguard Lebanese interests. The statement also called for rebuilding the army by disbanding the armed gangs which are affiliated to the sectarian militias and establishing a balanced national army whose allegiance will be for the Lebanese land and people.

EGYPTIAN EMBASSY ANNOUNCES ISSUANCE OF VISAS

NC291226Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 May 78 NC

[Text] The Egyptian Embassy in Beirut has announced that effective today, the Egyptian consulate will receive applicants who wish to obtain entry visas to Egypt. This follows the Egyptian Government's decision to implement the principle of reciprocity regarding the issuance of entry visas to Lebanese citizens beginning 1 June. This decision will exclude members of the Lebanese diplomatic corps, Lebanese consular employees accredited to Egypt, Lebanese employees of the United Nations, and bearers of Lebanese diplomatic passports.

ALGERIA

AL-QADHDHAFI ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

LD302312Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Mu'ammam al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in Algiers this afternoon. The brother colonel was accorded an official welcome at Dar al-Bayda airport where he was met by President Houari Boumediene and members of the Algerian Council of the Revolution.

At the VIP lounge, Brother Colonel Mu'ammam al-Qadhdhafi made a statement to the Algerian radio in which he expressed pleasure at being on the soil of sister Algeria. He said: We are not strangers to one another and none of us feels that he was moved from one country to a foreign country; indeed we are inside the one homeland and one country. I feel happy to be in Algeria and meet every time a people of 1.5 million martyrs who have crowned and honored the history of the Arab nation. I am happy to meet President Houari Boumediene.

Replying to a question on the situation in the African Continent and the military interventions, the brother colonel said: I expressed my views on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the OAU with regard to this topic and I considered the statement of the Paris meeting on the fresh return of colonialism in Africa, and said that this colonialism does not bring Africa stability or security but will bring a new conflict and new colonialism, and that its first result will be the splitting of Africa in two. The first half was exposed and we discovered that it was the French colonies. It appears that there is an attempt to allow French armies to return to their old colonies in Africa. The other half was free, and it is inevitable that it would confront this trend which I believe is represented by governments--those governments which attended the Paris conference--and is not accepted by peoples. Indeed, a number of those who attended the Paris conference expressed to me personally their disapproval and their displeasure at this new colonialist trend.

With regard to the Arab region, the brother colonel expressed his regret at the situation in the Arab region and said the Arab nation is in an unenviable position, and we have no alternative but to intensify the efforts to strive in a manner in conformity with this difficult line being experienced by the Arab nation. There is no doubt that the Arab nation is now in a very bad situation. I can say, as I have said about Africa, that this is the will of governments, but the will of the Arab nation is something other than what is being decided now and to what is taking place now, and the will of the Arab nation will continue in the revolution and in no other way.

MILITARY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR BULGARIA

LD281308Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Col Abdelhamid Latrach, secretary general of the Algerian Defense Ministry, left for Bulgaria this morning at the head of a military delegation on an official, cordial visit at the invitation of Bulgarian National Defense Minister Dobri Dzhurov.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI LEAVES FOR VISIT TO ALGERIA

LD302052Y Tripoli JANA in English 1811 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 30 JANA--Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, the secretary general of the General People's Congress, left today at noon for Algeria, accompanied by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi; Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary; and Jadallah 'Assuz at-Talhi, the industry secretary.

Colonel al-Qadhafi was seen off by Lieutenant-General Abu Bakr Unis Jabir, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Commander [title as received] Mustafa al-Kharrubi, secretaries and under secretaries of different departments and a number of army and police officers.

SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH AT-TURAYKI

LD272242Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 May 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki this evening received the Spanish foreign minister who is currently on a visit to the Jamahiriya. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation in all fields. They also discussed international issues of mutual interest.

The Spanish foreign minister arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Jamahiriya at the invitation of the foreign secretary. During the visit he will hold talks and contacts with officials to strengthen bilateral relations. The JANA correspondent has learned that the Spanish foreign minister carries a written message from the King of Spain, Juan Carlos, to brother Col Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD281505Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 May 78 LD

[Text] This morning Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja left Tripoli at the end of his visit to Libya during which he handed a message from King Juan Carlos to Colonel al-Qadhafi and renewed the king's invitation to visit Spain.

The Spanish minister was seen off at the airport by Foreign Secretary Dr Ali Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the assistant under secretary for political affairs, heads of Foreign Ministry departments and the Spanish ambassador to the Jamahiriya.

The Spanish foreign minister said his country will not establish relations of any kind with the Zionist enemy, especially diplomatic ones. He said Spain will not recognize Zionism and has not had any dialog or meeting with it. He confirmed that Spain stands by the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He said: The historic relations between Spain and the Arab countries make us stand by the legitimate right of the Palestinian people and we will always adhere to this position.

CUBAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES

LD272138Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 27 May--Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez Font arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a few days' visit to the Jamahiriya.

He told JANA that his visit comes within the framework of bolstering trade relations between the Jamahiriya and Cuba.

Holds Trade Talks

FL301930Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1835 GMT 30 May 78 FL

[Text] A Cuban delegation headed by Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez Font has arrived in Tripoli where official talks began between the Cuban and Libyan parties. On arrival in Tripoli, the Cuban delegation was received by Bakr 'Ali ash-Sharif, Libyan Trade Secretary; (Musa Shabam), president of the national supplies corporation, and other officials.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD302221Y Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 30 JANA--The Cuban external trade minister, Mr. Marcelo Fernandez Font, ended his visit to the Jamahiriya this afternoon.

He was seen off by the trade secretary, Abu Bakr ash-Sharif, and the Cuban ambassador to the Jamahiriya.

In a statement to the JANA correspondent the Cuban minister said that his visit was successful and most interesting since it had given him the opportunity to see the achievements realized under the 1st September revolution.

PRESIDENT OF RWANDA ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD282246Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 May 78 LD

[Text] Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the Republic of Rwanda, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Jamahiriya. He was given an official welcome at Tripoli international airport, where he was received by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud. Secretaries, under-secretaries, heads of diplomatic missions and senior officers of the armed forces also took part.

President Habyarimana, in a statement to JANA, described his visit to the Jamahiriya as being a visit of friendship and fraternity. He said: I will use the opportunity of my visit to discuss with my colleagues topics relating to the strengthening of relations between the Jamahiriya and Rwanda.

Leaves After Visit

LD310910Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli--President Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the Republic of Rwanda, left Tripoli this morning at the conclusion of his 3-day visit to the Jamahiriya.

In a statement made to JANA he described the results of his visit to the Jamahiriya as successful and beneficial. He said that he discussed with Col Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi the most important questions connected with security in the world in general and in Africa in particular.

At the end of his statement he hailed the strong relations between the Jamahiriya and Rwanda.

JALLUD RECEIVES CONGOLESE PRESIDENT'S ADVISER

LD301514Y Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 30, JANA--Staff-Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Congress, met yesterday the political adviser of the Congolese president. The envoy handed him a letter to Colonel al-Qadhafi, secretary-general of the General People's Congress, from Mr. Joachim Yhombi-Opango, president of the People's Republic of Congo.

The meeting, which was attended by the director of the African Department at the Foreign Secretariat, dealt with bilateral cooperation, the situation in Africa and questions of mutual interest.

LEBANON'S WALID JUNBLATT, DELEGATION END VISIT

LD260956Y Tripoli JANA in English 0831 GMT 26 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 26, JANA--Mr Walid Junblatt, the leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and the Lebanese National Movement, left here yesterday after visiting the Jamahiriya at the head of a Lebanese delegation.

Mr Junblatt expressed his satisfaction at the results of his visit during which he had met Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi and Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and held official talks.

In a statement to the JANA correspondent, Mr Junblatt commended the Jamahiriya's role in supporting liberation movements and in fighting colonialism in all its forms.

Mr Junblatt reaffirmed that the Jamahiriya and the Lebanese National Movement agreed upon the need to consolidate their cooperation in order to liberate the Arab people as well as the peoples in Africa, Asia, and all over the world from the oppression of reaction and colonialism.

He added that what was taking place in the Jamahiriya could be taken as an example by the whole world of striving towards a better society.

LIBYA REPORTEDLY TO BUY TRAINING PLANES FROM ITALY

JN270914Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 27 May--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports here today that the Libyan Government will buy 250 SF-25 military training planes from Italy. The paper adds that this is the biggest deal ever reached between the two countries, but it does not report on the amount of the deal or the time of delivery to Libya.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH RETURNS FROM MOROCCO

LD271706Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 27 May 78 LD

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 May, MAP--Moktar Ould Daddah, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, returned to Nouakchott on Friday following a short visit to Morocco during which he had a 1-hour private meeting with King Hassan II. In a statement to the press before his departure, the Mauritanian president said that the talks he had with King Hassan dealt with bilateral relations and other topical questions relating to "our region," the African Continent and the Arab nation. He added that this brief visit to Morocco helped to strengthen the brotherly relations between the two states and peoples. Referring to the French-African summit which has just taken place in Paris, Moktar Ould Daddah said that the participants in the summit discussed questions relating to the African Continent and cooperation between Europe and the African countries in general and cooperation between these countries and France in particular.

The official Mauritanian delegation which accompanied the president also left this morning aboard the same plane from Fez-Saïss airport.

COPPER MINING SUSPENDED IN AKJOUJT AS OF 31 MAY

PA261948Y Paris AFP in French 1751 GMT 26 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, 26 May (AFP)--Mauritania has decided to suspend copper mining in Akjoujt, in the central part of the country, as of 31 May. This activity has been controlled by the Mauritania Mines Society since 1970. The decision had long been expected in view of the constant deficit resulting from this activity (60 million francs in 1977).

MOROCCO

ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU ARRIVES IN FEZ

LD291350Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 May 78 LD

[Text] At about 1100 today Gen Mobutu Sese Seko, president of the Republic of Zaire, arrived in Fez. A short while ago the president of Zaire had a meeting with his majesty the king during which they held private talks.

Talks With King

LD292039Y Kinshasa AZAP in French 1700 GMT 29 May 78 LD/EA

[Text] Rabat--The president-founder of the popular movement of the Revolution, president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, who arrived in Morocco late Monday morning, had a private meeting of more than an hour with King Hassan II at Fez Palace early this afternoon.

Informed sources indicate that during this first encounter the two heads of state spoke of the prevailing situation in Shaba, the results of the fifth French-African conference which was held in Paris last week, and the possibility of sending a Moroccan military unit to Zaire to assist the Zairian armed forces in safeguarding the country's territorial integrity.

In this connection it is known that King Hassan II recently proposed to Mr Omar Bongo, the Gabonese head of state and current chairman of the OAU, the creation of a pan-African security force that would have as its mission to intervene whenever the integrity of an African member state of the OAU is threatened. This suggestion by King Hassan II has already received the consent in principle of the 21 Francophone states that took part in the latest French-African summit in Paris. Some of them, like Gabon and Senegal, even gave their formal approval.

Diplomatic sources in Rabat believe that most of the meetings between President Mobutu and King Hassan II will be concerned with the creation of this pan-African force.

It is also recalled in the royal capital that two Moroccan military missions have been in Zaire for about 10 days. One, consisting of about 30 technicians, is charged with maintaining the military material made available last year to the Zairian Army by the Moroccan contingent after the "first aggression" in Shaba. The second, consisting of about 50 persons, has the job of "following military developments" in Shaba.

Evening Meeting With King

LD292156Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 May 78 LD

[Summary] His Majesty King Hassan II tonight called on President Mobutu of Zaire at his place of residence at the royal palace. During the visit his majesty the king and the president of Zaire chaired a working session lasting about 1 hour.

On the Moroccan side the session was attended by Prime Minister Ahmad Osman; Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda, two of the king's advisers; the minister of transport; the secretary of state for foreign affairs; the secretary of state for the interior; Colonel Dlimi, chief aide-de-camp; and by the head of the chief of staff college.

On the Zairian side the session was attended by the foreign minister, the deputy director of the presidency and the Zairian ambassador to Morocco.

Leaves for Home

LD301330Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] President Mobutu Sese Sekou of Zaire left Fez for home at about 0800 this morning after a short visit to Morocco during which he had talks with King Hassan II soon after his arrival in Fez yesterday morning. There was also a working session, cochaired by King Hassan and the Zairian head of state, yesterday afternoon in the presence of their closest aides.

President Mobutu was seen off at Fez airport by Prime Minister Ahmed Osman, Transportation Minister Mohamed Nasser and Abderrahmane Baddou, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

KING REPORTEDLY MAY TAKE PALESTINIAN ON U.S. VISIT

LD301720Y Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWLI in Arabic 27 May 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources said that King Hassan II has sent a message to Yasir 'Arafat containing a suggestion which the Moroccan monarch believes might help to initiate a dialog between Washington and the PLO. The sources said that King Hassan II has suggested to 'Arafat that a Palestinian official be included in the official delegation which will accompany the monarch during his forthcoming visit to Washington which is expected to take place shortly. 'Arafat has not yet made a decision on the matter.

SUDAN

IRAQI CHIEF OF STAFF MEETS DEFENSE MINISTER

JN261320Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 26 May--The chief of the general staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces met here today with Gen Bashir Muhammad 'Ali, Sudanese defense minister and commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Muhammad 'Utham Hashim, chief of staff of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The chief of the general staff of the armed forces arrived in Khartoum yesterday at the head of a military delegation to participate in the celebrations marking the ninth anniversary of the 25 May revolution in Sudan.

IRAQI INFORMATION MINISTER MEETS WITH NUMAYRI

JN271153Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 27 May--Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has congratulated Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, on behalf of the Iraqi Government, on the ninth anniversary of the 25 May revolution in Sudan.

During his meeting with President Numayri here today, Hammudi asserted Iraq's eagerness to develop its relations with Sudan and to expand the scope of cooperation in all fields. On his part, President Numayri lauded Iraq's pan-Arab stands and its eagerness to consolidate the spirit of Arab fraternity.

The meeting was attended by Iraqi Ambassador to Sudan Muhammad Husayn ash-Shami.

Discusses Information Cooperation

JN271455Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 27 May--Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi and his Sudanese counterpart, Bona Malwal, have agreed to conclude a comprehensive information agreement.

During their meeting here today, the two ministers discussed the bases of cooperation between the two countries with regard to the press, radio and television, cooperation between INA and SUNA, and issues pertaining to vocational training. They also discussed matters related to an exchange of press and information items, and radio and TV programs. The discussion also dealt with the possibility of opening an Iraqi cultural center and an establishment for Iraqi writers in Khartoum.

It has been decided to sign the agreement during a visit to Iraq by Malwal, which is to take place at a later date.

Hammudi informed Malwal of Iraq's readiness to give further support to fraternal Sudan.

Leaves for Baghdad

JN281138Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May--Iraqi Information Minister Qasim Sa'd Hammudi left Khartoum for Baghdad today following a 5-day visit to Sudan during which he attended the celebrations marking the ninth anniversary of the 25 May revolution.

A press statement has been issued following Hammudi's visit to Sudan. The statement says that the information ministers of Iraq and Sudan have agreed on the need for the information organs in the two countries to show interest in exchanging visits, expertise in printing matters, and programs and information documents. The statement points out that the two sides have agreed to ratify an information agreement on issues of cooperation and the development of relations between the two countries' information media.

The statement says that the Iraqi information minister has invited his Sudanese counterpart to visit Iraq in order to sign the agreement.

Last night Hammudi met with 'Abd al-Qadir Haj Muhammad, member of the Central Committee of the Somali Socialist Party and president of the party's mobilization committee, who is currently visiting Sudan. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the fraternal relations existing between Iraq and Somalia and the means to develop cooperation between them. The meeting also dealt with Arab and international issues that are of mutual interest to the two countries.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA RECEIVES YUGOSLAV NAVY COMMANDER

LD310029Y Tunis TAP in French 1510 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Text] Tunis--On Monday afternoon Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nourra received Adm Branko Mamula, Yugoslav Navy commander. Their conversation concerned the broadening of cooperation between the two countries in all areas, with special reference to the problems of the Mediterranean.

Admiral Mamula said afterwards: Because our two countries belong to the nonaligned movement, a similarity in our points of view emerged during this conversation.

Prior to this, Mr Abdallah Farhat, Tunisian minister of national defense, had received Admiral Branko. The talks, which took place in the presence of Capt Habib Fadhlila, chief of staff of the Tunisian Navy, concerned in particular bilateral cooperation between the two navies, as well as the two armed forces in general, and the means to strengthen this cooperation.

RECENT REMARKS BY AS-SADAT STIMULATE REACTION

Jerusalem on Press Conference

TA302005Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 May 78 TA

[Text] In his press conference President as-Sadat made hard statements about the future of the political moves in the Middle East and determined that the fate of his peace initiative would be known in another 2 months. Elimelekh Ram, our political correspondent, brings us the reactions of political circles in Jerusalem:

Today we learned that the opinion has been expressed among the most senior political circles that Israel should change its position on its peace program, in view of President as-Sadat's position, which adheres to the demands he put forward in his speech to the Knesset, and in view of what these circles call "mockeries," or an "insult to the intelligence," such as setting October as a fateful date for the continuation of the negotiations. This is what the circles call As-Sadat's proposal regarding Jordanian rule over Judaea and Samaria and Egyptian rule over the Gaza Strip as an interim stage. Because of these phenomena, Israel should demand, in the spirit of the previous cabinets, control over Sharm ash-Shaykh, territorial continuity from Sharm ash-Shaykh to Elat and nonrecognition of the international border in Sinai.

As stated, these are only thoughts and not all the cabinet ministers hold these views. When we asked the foreign minister this evening for his views, he replied that he opposes this position completely.

Foreign Ministry Circles

TA292004Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 May 78 TA

[Text] Reacting to President as-Sadat's statement last night that the term of the Sinai disengagement agreement would expire in October, our political correspondent says that there is actually no time limit on the validity of the agreement. The agreement signed between Israel and Egypt in September 1975 says that it will remain valid until replaced by another agreement. This means that it is valid for longer than 3 years or any other specified period. As for the UNEF mandate, the Security Council has to renew it annually, for which Egypt has to give its consent.

Circles in the Foreign Ministry said today that following As-Sadat's speech Israel will have to launch an information campaign explaining to the world the meaning of the Sinai disengagement agreement.

Israeli ambassadors in NATO countries were requested by the Foreign Ministry to encourage the governments of those countries to thwart attempts by the U.S. administration to pass a resolution at the NATO foreign ministers' council in the spirit of the Aswan declaration. The United States intends to pass a resolution on Israel's duty to withdraw from all the three sectors according to Resolution 242 and on a solution of every aspect of the Palestinian problem, while having the Palestinians participate in the determining of their future.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that if such a statement is released by the NATO foreign ministers, this will constitute a very strange tendency on the part of that organization and express a one-sided position in the negotiations to further the process of peace. Political circles in Jerusalem view the U.S. intention with grave concern and say it appears that the United States is preparing the ground for a U.S.-initiated plan for the solution of the Middle East conflict, thus encouraging Arab extremism.

POST Comments

TA300800Y Jerusalem POST in English 30 May 78 p 8 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] Coyness does not become Anwar as-Sadat. The president of Egypt wonders, so he told a group of Alexandria University professors, what would happen when the Sinai agreement with Israel expires next October. "Only God knows, because the behaviour of the Israel Government is not clear."

The fact is that, at least for once, the behaviour of the Israel Government may be predicted with absolute certainty. Indeed the Israel Government, under both Mr Rabin and Mr Begin, has taken the unequivocal position that the pact, as is clearly stipulated in it, cannot expire at all, and may not be abrogated except by a new, mutually acceptable arrangement.

True, there was written into Sinai II, back in September 1975, a provision for a UN peacekeeping machinery of a minimum duration of three years. But, in the Israeli view, this did not grant either party licence, by bringing the machinery to a halt in three years' time, to raise the spectre of renewed hostilities.

The threat of just such a manoeuvre is what President as-Sadat has openly invoked in Alexandria.

His obvious hope is that it would induce a drastic change of mind in Israel--if it would not directly, then through Washington's leaning more heavily than ever on Jerusalem, thus forcing a settlement on, roughly speaking, Cairo's terms, the so-called As-Sadat initiative would not necessarily be called off--that might seem like recanting, and entail a loss of face--but direct contacts with Israel would not be resumed.

Advance notice of President as-Sadat's intentions must have been given to President Carter. The information has evidently been treated as a sign of both peril and opportunity.

The peril is that Egypt might be driven, not so much into war--although that possibility, too, need not be ruled out, despite the country's lack of military preparedness--as away from alliance with the U.S. Mr As-Sadat's current crackdown on domestic critics suggests his own assessment of the danger to his regime from quarters hostile to his American orientation no less than to his notion of a peace with Israel.

The opportunity is to present the main protagonists to the Middle East conflict with an American peace blueprint that they could not refuse. The reason they could not refuse it is because American public opinion would be convinced that it is not only in the interests of America, and of world peace, but in their own best interests.

This U.S. blueprint is expected to emerge, in its main outline, from a resolution due to be passed by the NATO foreign ministers in Washington this week. It would highlight the requirement of Israeli withdrawal on all fronts--including, that is, the West Bank--and the need to enable the Palestinian people to participate in the shaping of their own future.

Egypt will no doubt have reason to be pleased, and Israel to be distressed. If the past is any guide, it is safe to anticipate a hardening of both the official Israeli position and of the public Israeli attitude as a result of this move.

For the move can easily be seen as a regard for diplomatic intransigence, and an implied war threat, from the Arab side. It comes at a time when the measure of Egypt's flexibility is an utterly absurd proposal for the surrender of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip back to their previous Arab occupants on a supposedly temporary basis.

It also comes at a time when Jerusalem is supposed to be pondering Washington's questions about the interpretation of Israel's own peace offer. Thus it is insult added to injury.

Yet the Begin government should ask itself whether it has not actively helped bring this latest predicament upon itself. By insisting from the start that the U.S. administration should be co-sponsor of his "autonomy" plan, Mr Begin virtually made sure that the great promise of direct negotiations would soon give way to a reprise of the familiar American mediation, only this time on a higher level of intensity.

Wishful thinking alone could have led Mr Begin to expect Mr Carter to endorse the plan without qualification in its original form--let alone in its revised, and toughened up, version.

It is puzzling that Mr Begin should be puzzled by the discovery that the plan should be acceptable--to Mr Carter, and presumably to Mr as-Sadat as well--only in such manner as it would transform Palestinian Arab autonomy into independence, at least of Israel.

All Israel will no doubt join with President Navon in his call on President as-Sadat, in the inaugural address yesterday, for a return to the negotiating table. That this is the best way of achieving peace is hardly in need of demonstration. The Egyptian, as well as the American, leadership can easily be faulted for failure to support it. But, sad to admit, the Israel leadership too has so far earned few laurels for its peace diplomacy which should have helped implement its own peace plan.

POST ON U.S. DECISION NOT TO HAVE NATO MIDEAST DRAFT

TA310800Y Jerusalem POST in English 31 May 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Excerpt] The U.S. has decided not to have NATO issue a draft statement on the Middle East which Israel considered "one-sided." Instead NATO ministers currently meeting in Washington will probably direct a blandly-worded call to the Middle East protagonists to negotiate a settlement. Israel was informed of the U.S. decision yesterday. (This was confirmed by U.S. officials in Washington, according to the Jerusalem POST correspondent there.) But the relief felt in Jerusalem was tinged with a bitter after-taste resulting from what officials here regarded as high-handed U.S. conduct towards Israel.

Officials continue to regard the episode of the NATO draft as a significant omen of intensified American pressure on Israel to soften its negotiating stance.

Washington's decision to set aside the earlier draft, which had referred to the Palestinians' "legitimate rights" and to Israel's obligation to withdraw "on all fronts," came after energetic and indignant Israel protests in Washington. The Israeli Embassy remonstrated with State Department officials that a NATO statement of this nature, at this time, would prejudice the chances of renewing negotiations with Egypt.

At first, Embassy Minister Hanan Bar-On was confronted with protestations of ignorance. But on Monday, U.S. officials admitted that a draft document was indeed being considered, though no top-level decision had yet been taken.

Yesterday the U.S. charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv, Richard Viets, informed Foreign Ministry Director General Efrayim 'Evron that Washington's policy decision now appeared to be to set aside the "staff level" drafts and support an "anodyne" text. Israeli sources said this text seemed satisfactory from Israel's standpoint. Viets pointed out that the NATO drafting committee had not yet discussed it.

The Israeli sources could not assess to what extent, if at all, Israel's protests had influenced the American decision. They were plainly feeling bitter and chastened by America's failure to inform Israel earlier that the original (and, in Israel's eyes, objectionable) text had been under consideration. (Israel learned of the draft from European sources.) They saw the U.S. performance, in circulating a Middle East draft among NATO countries while concealing it from Israel, as evidence of Washington's determination to exert new political pressure on Jerusalem in the aftermath of Israel's reversal over the planes sale to Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

There is a growing acceptance in government circles here of the assessment that Washington is now preparing the ground for the eventual presentation of its own peace plan for the Middle East. An atmosphere demonstrably irredeemable deadlock between Israel and Egypt would, according to this assessment, best suit the administration when it steps in with its own solution. Such an atmosphere would blunt the cries of "imposed settlement" that would presumably emanate from Israel and from its supporters in the Congress.

IDF VIOLATES AGREEMENTS ON GOLAN, SINAI FRONTS

TA260931Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 26 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Syria has complained that Israel has violated the disengagement agreement in the Golan Heights and introduced more tanks into the buffer zone. The UN has looked into the complaint and determined that Israel has indeed violated the agreement. Another complaint was submitted to Israel by the United States. The U.S. warning station in the Sinai has determined that Israeli aircraft have taken photographs in the buffer zones, in violation of the agreement.

It has been learned from UN sources that the Syrian complaint was submitted at the beginning of this week. It is not clear whether it was submitted following Syrian findings of the violation or whether it was the UN that discovered that the IDF had introduced a larger number of tanks into the buffer zones and that after the report was forwarded to the two parties, Damascus decided to submit a formal complaint. According to the agreement, each party may hold a limited number of tanks in the buffer zone area.

Security sources in Israel have said that immediately upon receiving the UN report, the IDF's additional tanks were removed. It was stated that the violation was incidental and apparently resulted from lack of attention on the part of the commanding field echelon to orders, in other words, a disciplinary violation.

In the Sinai the violation was discovered by the U.S. warning station. According to the agreement, each party may conduct seven reconnaissance flights per week over the disengagement line in the Sinai. The agreement states that two aircraft may be engaged in each flight but that this must be reported in advance, and that they must fly in one direction and must not return via the same route.

According to the complaint, Israeli aircraft normally used the same route on their way back to rephotograph Egyptian territory, without reporting this in advance either to the UN or to the United States. This is a violation.

It has been said that in the annual report submitted by the United States on the activity of their Sinai warning station, it was stated that Israel has been more active than Egypt in this area.

NAVY CONTINUES VIGIL OFF LEBANESE SHORES

TA261300Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 May 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Israel naval vessels are continuing to patrol off Lebanon's territorial waters and to examine vessels that are on their way to and from Lebanon.

The naval patrols are being executed by Israel navy vessels in various sectors. Vessels that seem suspect are being examined by the navy. So far no weapons or terrorists have been found on the examined vessels. One vessel, which made the trip from Cyprus to Beirut, was examined by a navy boat and was later released. The checks are made to prevent terrorists from entering Israeli waters.

ARTICLE CONTEMPLATES SHORTCOMINGS OF ISRAELI POWER

TA261237Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 26 May 78 p 14 TA

['Uzzi Benziman article]

[Text] At the beginning of the week, the cabinet felt the shortcomings of its power. It was forced to set a date for the completion of the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon. It is true that a priori no one in the cabinet had dreamed that the IDF would reach the Litani River, just as there was no minister who determined in advance how long the IDF units would remain in Lebanese territory. However, in effect, the cabinet set a goal for the IDF operation in southern Lebanon: handling the security arrangements that would prevent the terrorists from returning to the area.

The decision to complete the withdrawal by 13 June was not passed because the cabinet has a satisfactory assurance of enforcing adequate security measures in southern Lebanon. The decision was passed in view of the position of the United States, which has been demanding for weeks that Israel at long last remove its forces from the area and thus prevent the reconvening of the Security Council to pass an anti-Israel resolution that the United States could not prevent.

The decision came while reports were coming from the area which did not bring tidings of adequate security measures. The infiltration of terrorists into the area south of the Litani River was continuing, PLO men gained control over Tyre port and the UN forces conducted discussions on if and how to declare the territories clear of terrorists. Similarly, the intention to set up a defensive force comprising the local villagers did not ripen and there were merely slight chances of returning the Lebanese Government's actual sovereignty over the area. Nevertheless, the cabinet decided to order the IDF to fold its tents and return to Israel on the 13th of next month.

The shortcomings of the Israeli power were reflected also in the cabinet's decision regarding the aircraft deal. At the beginning of the week the government deliberated on how to react to the Senate decision. There were some ministers (among them Yizhaq Moda'i) who claimed that the government should merely publish a declaration of protest and not link it with demands on the United States. If that was done, these ministers argued, Washington would be seen as the one who hurt Israel and who was expected to compensate it. There were ministers who favored a contrary approach: to link the expression of disappointment over the U.S. position with demands in the sphere of practical defense.

Finally an agreement was reached on the decision which, on the one hand, expressed sorrow and disappointment over the Senate decision and, on the other, authorized the Ministerial Committee for Defense to present the United States with some demands in the field of practical defense. This decision also reflected Jerusalem's dependence on Washington.

The cabinet has therefore had to watch its moves to the U.S. position in purely defense matters--the supply of F-14 aircraft to Saudi Arabia and securing the country against terrorist conspiracies from southern Lebanon. The ministers had to consider the range of agreement with the United States at the cabinet's disposal when the time came to conduct negotiations concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the United States, while its claims against the terrorists were seen by public opinion as unfounded on purely defense considerations.

Next Sunday the cabinet will (if there is no change) deal with the political question regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A week ago Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan received an Egyptian response to the questions Israel presented via U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. During the visits of Begin and Dayan to Washington, about a month ago, they asked the United States to forward to As-Sadat two questions: Was he prepared to reach a final agreement with Israel on the future of the West Bank? And if so, what was the picture that he had in mind of the situation regarding the arrangements in these areas?

The Egyptian response will be discussed at the cabinet's Sunday session so that it can decide how to answer. The Egyptians have not given a clear-cut answer to the questions and they linked their position with presenting several conditions and possibilities regarding the situation that will prevail in the West Bank. It is on that basis that they will determine the degree of their readiness to be Israel's interlocutors on the matter. The cabinet would have to decide upon its reaction to the Egyptian response, when on the one hand As-Sadat's position arouses disappointment and on the other Jerusalem seeks to continue to maintain the thread of negotiations with him.

The Egyptian reply arrived a month after Israel had presented the questions to Cairo. During the month As-Sadat made strong efforts to convince King Husayn to join the negotiations and thus relieve the Egyptian president of the need to consult with Israel concerning the future of the West Bank.

There was a reason for As-Sadat's efforts. The questions presented to him resulted from Dayan's initiative to conduct practical negotiations with Egypt and to leave off dealing with the declaration of principles. Following Dayan's move, the United States and Egypt had to answer the question of whether Israel has a partner for discussing the future of the West Bank. Before a reliable answer to this question was provided, Israel must not be approached with demands to consolidate decisions about the future of Judaea and Samaria.

As-Sadat therefore sought an Arab counterpart for the negotiations with Israel. He concentrated his efforts on Saudi Arabia and Jordan, but for the moment it seems that he did not succeed. For the time being Egypt remains solitary around the negotiating table. In order to respond to the Israeli demand for an Egyptian counterproposal to the Israeli peace plan, As-Sadat forwarded an Egyptian plan to Washington. The United States decided not to pass the contents of the document to Israel (even though the major trends were passed to the foreign minister) because the United States regarded it as such an intransigent starting point that there was no point in demanding that Israel discuss it. The Egyptian peace plan reflected its well-known public positions: a demand that Israel totally withdraw and grant self-determination to the Palestinians. However, Washington has not let go and it is demanding that Israel reply to the questions it presented Begin and Dayan during their visits to the United States last month. The United States claims that an Israeli response showing flexibility would encourage As-Sadat to present a more convenient peace plan. Without Israeli responsiveness to the U.S. expectations--the administration claims--a dangerous freeze in the negotiations would be created, while a satisfactory response (in U.S. opinion) would permit the renewal of direct contacts between Jerusalem and Cairo.

The questions Israel is supposed to answer deal with the situation that will prevail in the West Bank (and in the Gaza Strip) after the period of autonomy, at the conclusion of the self-administration rule. Washington wants to know whether at the end of the autonomy period Israel would be prepared to determine the final situation of the regions of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, including the identity of their sovereign. It further desires to know what Israel's attitude is toward the possibility of including Jordan in the supervision of the autonomous rule and, conversely, including Palestinian elements in this arrangement.

The questions were presented in their essence to Begin and Dayan last month during their visit to Washington and the prime minister even replied to them in general. He told Carter and Vance that in his opinion there was no point in declaring in advance what situation will prevail in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, because such a determination would inconvenience the way of life in these regions during the period of the autonomy and would from the start preclude coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. As for the character of the self-rule, the prime minister and the foreign minister made it clear that Israel was willing to sit and discuss with Egypt the details of the plan and even make changes in it in order to enlarge the self-rule component of the local inhabitants.

Apparently, Israel has replied to the U.S. questions, but it remains for the government to think about them and to formulate new answers. During the course of negotiations there are moments when fundamental positions of special standing are decided upon. Such a moment was the minute when the U.S. demanded responses.

Basically, Washington knows the cabinet's view regarding Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip: the government has not gone back on its autonomy plan just as it has not changed its opinion that it is not incumbent upon it to declare in advance what the situation which will prevail in these regions after 5 years will be. However, Washington is still presenting the questions. The expected deliberation stems first and foremost from the expectation of an Israeli reply. The cabinet's formulations will have a fundamental value of special significance.

The Israeli response to the U.S. question is not expected to come as early as next week (while it is possible that Israel will reply to the Egyptian position that was passed last week through Lewis to Dayan). It has been hinted by Washington that the administration does not expect an Israeli response instantly. However, the temporary delay would not prevent the need to formulate the Israeli position. Jerusalem understands that there is no way to flatly deny the U.S. request to provide answers. This is an expression of the sober recognition of Israel's dependence on the United States, reminders of which have been expressed this week during the decisions on both the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon and the Israeli reaction to the aircraft deal.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON SHILO SETTLEMENT

TA302043Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 May 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister Ezer Weizman said today that there is no excavation camp in Shilo and that no archeological excavations are being carried out there, but the possibility of conducting excavations is still being investigated. Mr Weizman made the remarks in the Knesset in reply to a draft motion for the agenda by MK Yosi Sarid, who demanded that the Shilo foothold be evacuated. The Knesset struck the motion from the agenda. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Nahman Shay, reports on the debate:

It may be that 5 or 6 months ago a draft motion for the agenda on the Shilo foothold would have caused a storm in the Knesset. In the meantime the fervor of the dispute over the foothold has apparently died down and the motion and its rejection were made calmly today and the debate was held quietly. [begin videotape]

[Sarid] There is no excavation camp and there will be none. A settlement worthy of the name will not be established. The only possibility, then, is to evacuate the settlers who went there on their own initiative and, in addition, tried to impose their will on the cabinet. [end videotape]

When MK Sarid left the podium, he presented the defense minister with a pamphlet put out by Gush Emunim. Sarid claims that the pamphlet indicates that Shilo is a permanent settlement with all that involves, according to Gush Emunim. In his reply, the minister of defense said: [begin videotape]

[Weizman] I am not saying that I am happy about what has happened in Shilo. I have seen a similar process in the past with a cabinet you would have voted for. I, at any rate... not exactly, I did not say exactly, I said similar. Similar is not exactly the same... [interruptions from floor] the excavation camp in Shilo... [interruptions from floor] I heard you, Menahem. The excavation camp in Shilo was intended to conduct archeological excavations and there were even consultations about this with the elements involved. The facts described in the motion and in the remarks by MK Sarid are largely correct, but the possibility of carrying out archeological excavations on the site is still being investigated. As long as no cabinet decision is made on the issue, there is no reason to decide to evacuate. [end videotape]

With a majority from the coalition factions and with the significant abstention of the DMC faction, the motion was struck from the agenda.

GUSH EMUNIM WILL ACT EVEN WITHOUT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL

TA290741Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 29 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] If the Gush Emunim does not succeed in pressuring the government into approving the change in status of recently established settlements into permanent settlements and into approving further settlements within 2 months, it will employ "a plan of field activity" which will include settlement activity even without government approval. This was recently decided in a closed session of the Gush Emunim secretariat.

The HA'AREZ correspondent has learned that at that same meeting it was also decided to publicly oppose the government's peace plan through massive propaganda campaigns.

SHARON REACHES AGREEMENT WITH BEDOUINS

TA291245Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 May 78 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon met with representatives of bedouin tribes in Jerusalem today. He announced that from now on a bedouin shaykh will join every action of the Green Patrol within the boundaries of any tribe. The agriculture minister informed the bedouin notables that it has been decided to extend the date for the completion of land settlement by another year. He told our correspondent Arye Gus that many bedouins have recently turned to the compromises committee on the matter of land. Sharon told the bedouins with whom he met that since they accepted his proposal to register the herds, the government will immediately take care to provide pastures for the 100,00 registered head of sheep and goats. Sharon made the accusation that the numerous reports about the Green Patrol originate in Jewish elements who are acting for internal political reasons.

V. 31 May 78

I R A N

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FLOODING, LOSS OF LIFE REPORTED AFTER RAINS IN ESFARAYEN

LD291124Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 29 May 73 LD

[Text] A flood resulting from torrential rains in the villages of Kalat, (Eraqi), Mahmudi and Barak in Esfarayen claimed the lives of six people yesterday. According to our correspondent, a number of houses have also been destroyed. Following the incident, relief groups from Esfarayen, accompanied by the governor, the managing director of the Red Lion and Sun Society, the commander of the gendarmerie, the head of the health office and a number of doctors from the Red Lion and Sun Society of Esfarayen left for the stricken area with 100 tents, 200 blankets and 500 kilograms of foodstuffs.

The relief committee of Esfarayen has also met to assess the damage. The villages of Ruyan and Mehrabad in Esfarayen are also reported to be engulfed by flooding.

FRENCH NAVAL SHIPS PAY COURTESY VISIT TO BANDAR ABBAS

LD291256Y Teheran PARS in English 1028 GMT 29 May 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS News Agency) 28 May--Two ships from the French Indian Ocean fleet arrived in Bandar Abbas on Saturday for a courtesy visit.

In a press interview in Teheran, the commander of the French Indian Ocean fleet, Admiral Henri Darieux, said that the visit to Bandar Abbas was to introduce French sailors and naval officers to the ships and men of the Iranian Navy and to the southern coast of Iran.

Asked about the strength of the Soviet fleet in the Indian Ocean, the admiral said that this had not grown appreciably over the past twelve months.

Darieux said that the role of his fleet in the Indian Ocean, which he called "a sensitive area", was largely reconnaissance and that France had no naval base in the area and no submarines--nuclear or conventional--in the Indian Ocean.

ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES HASTY VISIT

LD261518Y Brussels Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 May 78 LD

[Text] Umba-Di-Lutete, Zairian foreign minister, has just made a brief trip to Teheran. Umba-Di-Lutete handed the shah a message from President Mobutu. This message of course deals with the events in Shaba. But the rumors according to which Zaire is reported to be asking Iran for aid, both financial and political, have for the moment not been confirmed in either Teheran or Kinshasa. Umba-Di-Lutete, whose trip seems to have been organized in great haste, arrived in Teheran in the evening of the day before yesterday. He left Teheran this morning for Europe.

INDIAN MINISTER, NIGERIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVE IN IRAN

LD271218Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 27 May 78 LD

[Text] The Indian foreign minister and the deputy finance minister of the African country of Nigeria are among the foreign personalities to arrive in Teheran today on a visit to our country.

The Indian foreign minister, during his meetings with our country's high-ranking political figures in Teheran today, will discuss recent developments in the region and questions of interest to Iran and India. In view of the new regime in Afghanistan and that country's close proximity to Iran and India, political specialists attach tremendous importance to this visit. On his visit to Austria last week, the Indian foreign minister, during a brief stopover in Teheran, described Iranian-Indian relations and cooperation as excellent.

The Nigerian deputy finance minister is another foreign personality to come to Teheran for an official 5 day visit to Iran leading a five-man delegation of high-ranking officials from that country. During his stay in Teheran he will carry out talks with top Iranian officials on expanding Iranian-Nigerian economic relations. Nigeria is one of the well-known African members of OPEC and it is expected that the question of oil will be discussed by the two delegations during the talks between the two countries' officials.

KHAL'ATBARI GIVES VIEW ON EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

LD242046Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Summary] On his return to Teheran after visiting Turkey in order to participate in the Regional Cooperation for Development Organization session, 'Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari, the Iranian foreign minister, gave an interview to correspondents at Mehrabad Airport. [Begin recording]

[Question] "Did recent changes in Afghanistan occupy a special place in your talks?

[Answer] "In the private talks, yes.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] "Of course, what has taken place in Afghanistan has not only influenced this region, but also general world policy. But the countries of this region which are Afghanistan's immediate neighbors are watching more than others and paying more attention to the course of events and they wish to know better what direction the new Afghan Government will take.

[Question] "Could you please explain the position of the new Afghan Government vis-a-vis the undertakings of the former government?

[Answer] "We still do not have much information, since they have neither contacted us directly nor made any public announcement (?in this respect).

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] "As far as I have been able to understand, Pakistan, too, is in a position of waiting to see what direction will be adopted.

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT ENDS 4-DAY VISIT TO IRAN

LD240950Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Text] Kang Yang-uk, DPRK vice president who arrived in Iran at the head of a 20-man delegation 4 days ago, left Teheran this morning. He was seen off at Mehrabad Airport by Prince Gholam Reza Pahlavi. During their visit, the DPRK vice president and his delegation were received by the Shah and held talks with a number of senior Iranian officials.

AFGHANISTAN

COMMERCE MINISTER RECEIVES CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE DELEGATION

LD261350Y Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 25 May 78 LD

[Text] A trade delegation from the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia paid a courtesy call on Abdelqoddus Ghorbandi, minister of commerce, at his office at 1100 hours this morning and discussed (?views) on matters of mutual interest. Also present at the meeting was His Excellency Zdenek Karmelita, the Czechoslovak ambassador to Kabul.

The trade delegation of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, headed by Dr Pomjen Matuska, vice chairman of the Chambers of Commerce in that country, arrived in Kabul this morning at the invitation of the General Chambers of Commerce of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The delegation was met at Kabul International Airport by the president of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and officials of the chambers.

According to another report, the trade delegation from the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia has begun its round of talks with the Afghan delegation led by [name indistinct] from the Planning Ministry.

GOVERNMENT NAMES DEPUTY RADIO MINISTER; RENAMES PALACE

BK300340Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0257 GMT 30 May 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, May 30 (AFP)--The Democratic Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan announced the appointment of Mr Mohammad Katawazi as deputy minister for radio and television, Radio Kabul reported last night.

Another decision announced was to rename the royal palace as "the House of the People" in recognition of the sacrifices made by the people of Afghanistan.

Radio Kabul also said that all routine laboratory tests in the Ministry of Public Health laboratories would be henceforth free of charge.

The radio described the decision as a first step towards ensuring free medical care for the people of Afghanistan.

KABUL ANNOUNCES RADIO MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

LD300530Y Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 28 May 78 LD

[Summary] On the proposal of the Ministry of Radio and Television, the approval of the Council of Ministers and the ratification of the president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the following appointments have been made at the Ministry of Radio and Television.

Mr Mohammad Katawazi as deputy minister of radio and television; (?Sakhi Rueber) as director general of radio and television; Abdolkhaleq Ali as director of Afghan film; Dr Mohammad Sadeq Fetrat as director of radio broadcasts; and Mohammad Yosof as director of the Radio Technical Operations Department.

TARAKI ADDRESSES PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES 29 MAY

LD291816Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 May 78 LD/BK

[Summary] Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan received workers' and people's representatives from various tribes and localities at the People's House this morning. During this meeting, which was attended by Defense Minister Col Abdol Qader, with representatives of the workers of the Golbahar, Pol-E Khomri and Jabal Seraj textile plants and the workers of the Jangalak factories, as well as notables from Konar, Wardaq, Samangan, Farah, Paktia, Helmand, Logar and Nangarhar provinces, Taraki addressed the audience and said that "the revolution of 27 April has had a profound effect on the destiny of the people of Afghanistan." Taraki added that the revolution was accomplished under the leadership of the Democratic People's Party which is a party of the working class of Afghanistan and which succeeded in toppling the Nadir dynasty and its last autocrat, Daud.

"Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the Democratic People's Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister alluded to the oppression and administrative corruption that prevailed under the old regime." He said that the Democratic People's Party started its struggle 15 years ago during which a large number of patriotic youth were trained and with their sacrifice, the revolution attained success.

Taraki said: "The first real and progressive duty of the government is to provide food, shelter and work for the majority of the poor and hungry people of the country." We are confident that our friends at home and abroad will cooperate with us in the realization of the aims of the revolutionary regime. I assure you that all forms of discrimination, inequality and injustice that our country has suffered in the past will disappear, and all the patriotic people of Afghanistan will live in unity and will render joint revolutionary efforts without any regard to the conspiracies of internal enemies and the imperialists.

"Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, while alluding to friendly relations with foreign countries and their cordial and unconditional assistance, said: The best relations will be established with countries that officially recognize our democratic republic and extend unconditional economic assistance to us." Taraki asked the audience to convey his best wishes to the compatriots in the provinces.

Before Taraki's speech, the minister of defense gave a speech on the 27 April revolution by the armed forces which led to the overthrow of the Nadir dynasty. Four members of the audience responded and expressed their readiness to cooperate toward the realization of the revolutionary aims of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

BOMBAY WEEKLY CITES AFGHAN PRIME MINISTER ON CLOSER TIES

BK260939Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 May 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister of Afghanistan, Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki, has said his country wants to expand relations with India particularly in economic, commercial, technical and cultural fields.

In an interview to a Bombay magazine, Mr Taraki said Afghanistan wants to further improve its relations with India. Meanwhile, the Afghanistan Government has introduced the metric system of measures and weights in the country.

BANGLADESH

DELEGATION TO VISIT RANGOON FOR REFUGEE TALKS

BK300902Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 30 May 78 BK

[Text] A delegation from Bangladesh led by the foreign secretary is leaving for Rangoon on the 6th of next month to discuss the problem of the exodus of Burmese refugees in a bid to reach an amicable settlement for repatriation to their homeland. The decision has been taken after an extensive exchange of notes between the two governments.

In reply to a note, the Burmese Government stated that they share the concern felt by the Bangladesh Government over the situation that has arisen on the border between the two countries. The Burmese Government said it will continue to work for the restoration and maintenance of the border as a border of peace, which is so close to the hearts of the persons of Bangladesh and Burma.

Meanwhile, the presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Haq, had a meeting with the heads of diplomatic missions in Dacca yesterday and acquainted them with the latest developments of the situation arising out of the mass influx of Burmese refugees into Bangladesh.

The adviser told them that efforts have been made by Bangladesh to provide relief to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees and to stop a further influx and to insure their repatriation to their original homes. Professor Haq said as soon as Bangladesh received information about the arrival of the first batch of refugees, a senior member of the Presidential Council of Advisers was sent to Rangoon as a special envoy with a letter from President Zia for President Ne Win which hoped that the problem will be [words indistinct].

The foreign minister of Burma also came to Dacca last month to discuss the problem. Following detailed discussions with the Burmese foreign minister, he was presented with a set of specific proposals by Bangladesh. In the last week of April, the influx of refugees assumed the (?proportions) of a mass exodus. The total number has now exceeded over 150,000 [as heard]. He said the number is likely to rise further with the crossing of those who seem to have collected on the other side of the border. Professor Haq along with the dean of the diplomatic corps, [name indistinct], visited these camps and saw the pitiable spectacle of human misery in the camps.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE LEAVES FOR 2-DAY VISIT TO IRAN 27 MAY

BK270918Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 May 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, left for Teheran this morning on a 2-day official visit to Iran.

Before departure, talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Vajpayee indicated that developments in Afghanistan may figure during his talks with the Iranian leaders. He said India had already made it clear that it would like stability in the region and has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any country directly or indirectly. We have assured all our neighbors that we want to develop relations on the basis of equality, he added.

Mr Vajpayee also indicated that the question of multilateral cooperation with Iran, which figured during the shah of Iran's visit to India, is also likely to be taken up in the discussions. Besides, the question of disarmament will also be discussed, to which India attaches great importance.

Returns to India

BK290927Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 May 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister has said that both India and Iran have agreed that stability and economic cooperation in the region are important and the process of cooperation in the economic field should continue.

Talking to newsmen at Delhi airport this morning on his return from Teheran after a 2-day official visit, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee described his talks with the Iranian leaders as very fruitful.

He denied an agency report that there was disagreement between him and the shah of Iran on the Afghanistan issue. He described such reports as totally baseless and mischievous. Mr Vajpayee said India and Iran consider the developments in Afghanistan as its domestic affair. He said the new government in Afghanistan has indicated that it will continue to follow a path of strict nonalignment.

Makes Statement

BK291540Y Delhi ISI in English 1430 GMT 29 May 78 BK

[Text of 29 May Delhi press statement by Indian Foreign Minister Vajpayee on his visit to Iran]

[Text] My visit to Iran was part of the continuing process of consultations with our neighbours on matters of mutual interest which the Janata government has initiated during the last 1 year. The timing was fixed to adjust to my planned visit to New York which had to be postponed because of a rescheduling of the business of the disarmament session. It would not be correct to say that the visit was only on account of developments in Afghanistan.

The recent changes in Afghanistan were discussed along with other developments in this region. Both Iran and India have been interested in stability and economic cooperation in this area.

We recognise that these developments are the internal affair of Afghanistan. There are some apprehensions about a setback to the process of regional stability and cooperation. It is our view that the developments in Afghanistan need not be a setback to this process.

From my conversations with his imperial majesty it became clear that this aim of stability, cooperation and preservation of independence and integrity of all states was a common aim.

The visit enabled me to have an exchange of views in our bilateral relations in a fairly detailed way with his imperial majesty the shahanshah, Prime Minister Amuzegar and the foreign minister. In fact, we had a meeting with Foreign Minister Khal'atbari and several senior officers for one and a half hours prior to dinner. We reviewed all on-going joint economic projects--the Rajasthan Canal, alumina, paper and pulp projects and the railway contract. We also dwelt on mutual efforts to increase trade--sugar, wheat and the delay in the supply of steel billets. What was striking was ready agreement to do everything possible to strengthen our economic relations.

We hope that this entirely beneficial relation will help similar relations with other countries and promote multilateral economic cooperation in the region.

Some international questions like Africa, West Asia and disarmament were also discussed.

I incidentally raised the question of difficulties being experienced by Indian businessmen and dependents in getting visas for Iran. I was assured that there was no discrimination against India. But Iran wants to control illegal entries and unauthorised foreigners taking up jobs. However, I was assured that genuine difficulties would be removed. From our side also some procedural problems relating to unskilled labour going on contract have to be sorted out.

I found my visit very useful. I am very grateful for the hospitality and time given by the shahanshah, the prime minister and the foreign minister. Far from any differences--as apparently reported by some foreign agencies and carried by some papers--there was broad agreement and sincere appreciation of friendly cooperation.

Anyway, I did not hear of any anti-red move of Iran [as received].

ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU ARRIVES, TALKS WITH DESAI

BK300848Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 May 78 BK

[Text] President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, who arrived on a brief visit to New Delhi this morning, is now having talks with the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai. During his 3-hour stay in the capital, Mr Ceausescu is having lunch with Mr Desai.

Before leaving New Delhi he will address a news conference. The Romanian president, who is on his way back home from a tour of China, North Korea and Vietnam, was received at the airport by the prime minister, the external affairs minister and the members of the diplomatic corps. From the airport Mr Ceausescu, who is accompanied by Mrs Ceausescu, drove to the prime minister's house where the official talks are taking place.

Addresses Newsmen

BK301303Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 May 78 BK

[Text] The Romanian president, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, who had talks with Mr Morarji Desai in New Delhi today, said that the talks covered a wide range of issues of common interest. Mr Ceausescu made a 3-hour stopover in New Delhi on his way back from Phnom Penh.

The Romanian president told newsmen that he discussed with Mr Desai several aspects of development of bilateral relations. They also exchanged views on international matters of common interest as well as the new international economic order. Both of them expressed their desire that the two countries should cooperate in the United Nations and other world bodies for world peace and cooperation. Mr Ceausescu said they stressed the importance of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

He expressed the hope that Mr Desai would pay a visit to Romania soon.

Apprises Desai of PRC Visit

BK301607Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 May 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese leaders are reported to have told the Romanian president, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, that there are good prospects of improving Sino-India relations. Mr Ceausescu, who has just ended his visit to China and some of its neighboring countries, gave an account of his talks with their leaders to the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, in general terms during the stopover in New Delhi today. He was on his way back home.

Romania has been traditionally having close and friendly relations with China.

Mr Morarji Desai hosted a working lunch in honor of the Romanian president, Madam Ceausescu and others accompanying him.

Mr Ceausescu is believed to have told Mr Desai that China's relations with Vietnam are passing through a difficult phase. He said he also had discussions with the Chinese leaders on the relations with the Soviet Union and other neighboring countries. Mr Ceausescu's talks with Mr Desai lasted over 2 hours. Mr Vajpayee and Mr George Fernandes were among those present. Considerable time was devoted to the problem of disarmament. The Romanian [words indistinct] the desirability of great powers giving the lead in the matter.

Mr Desai said if they have greater confidence among themselves and can eliminate fear, there could be movement toward disarmament.

Mr Ceausescu reiterated Romania's adherence and respect for the ideals of the nonaligned movement.

Both the leaders agreed that there is scope for greater economic cooperation between the two countries, especially in industrial, petrochemical and metallurgical fields. The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent says that Romania is looking for Indian technology in cold rolling mills, and a proposal is under consideration for India to set up such a mill in Romania.

Mr Ceausescu invited Mr Morarji Desai to visit Romania. Mr Desai has accepted the invitation.

NEPAL

BIRENDRA RETURNS FROM JAPAN, PRC, PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA

BK261517Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 26 May 78 BK

[Excerpt] Their majesties the king and queen were given a rousing welcome this afternoon upon their arrival home after completing a weeklong state visit to Japan and a few days of unofficial visits to the PRC, the Philippines and Malaysia. Their majesties were received warmly by His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra and other members of the royal family at the Tirbhuvana International Airport.

BRIEFS

INDIAN RUPEE REVALUED--The Reserve Bank has announced an upward revaluation of the rupee in relation to the U.S. dollar by about 2 percent. The exchange rate of purchase from 26 May for U.S. dollar currency notes will be rupees 8.20 per dollar as against rupees 8.35, and for selling it will be rupees 8.60 against rupees 8.75 per dollar.

[Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 78 BK]

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